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MARTLET

The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | www.martlet.ca
Volume 59, Issue 21 | Thursday, February 8, 2007 | Feeling all warm and fuzzy for 59 years

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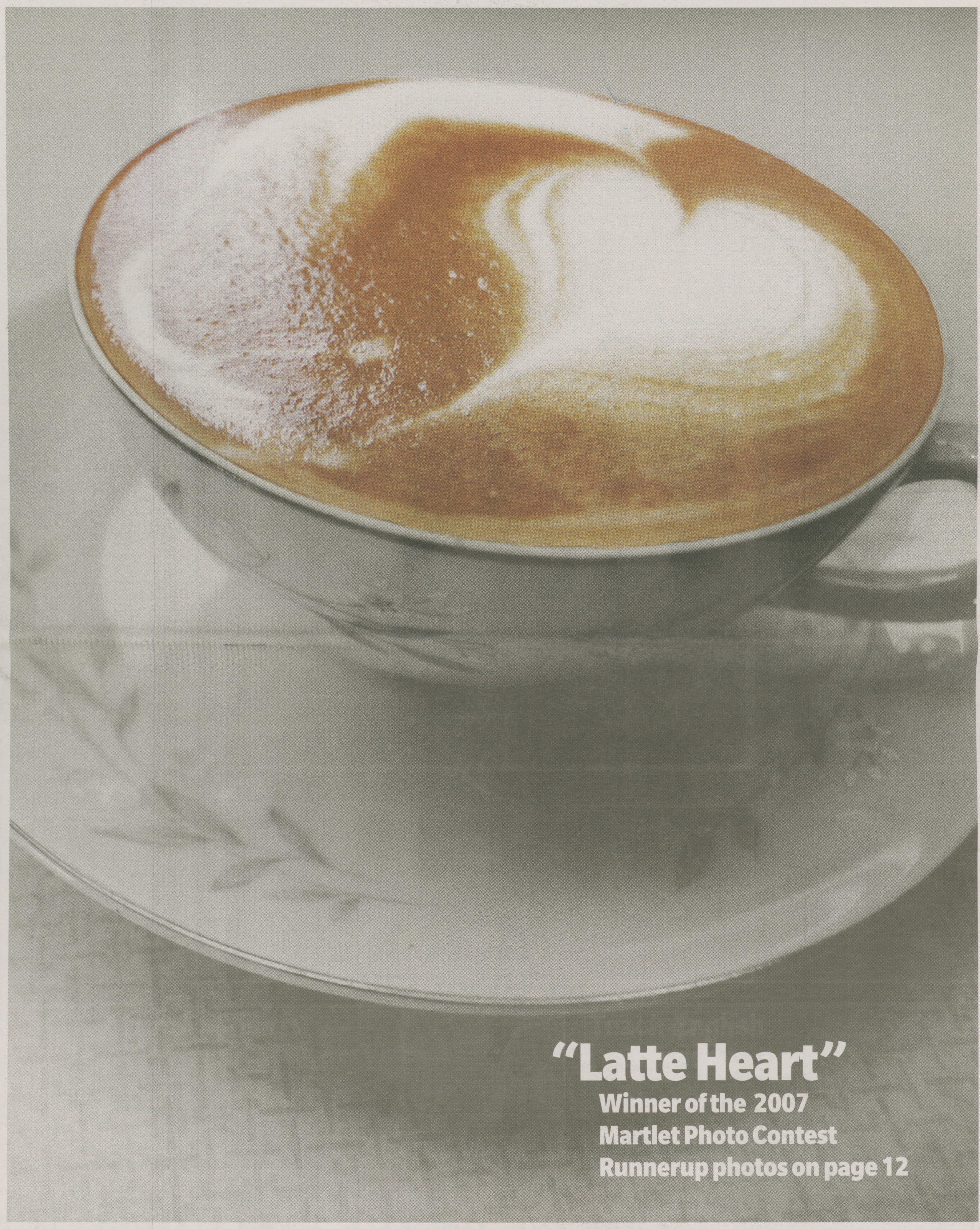

"Latte Heart"
Winner of the 2007 Martlet Photo Contest
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Twenty-four youth from across the world get ready to travel from North to South Pole using only human power.

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Our sports editor competes in a 2,000-metre rowing machine race with little training and no spandex.

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UVSS hires a new electoral officer

Lindsay Bourque is hired to ensure this year's elections go smoothly

by Kim Armstrong

At the end of her first week on the job, UVic Students' Society (UVSS) electoral officer Lindsay Bourque is just getting settled in.

While the decor in the electoral office in SUB B106 is minimalist at best, it has the one thing Bourque said is indispensable: a whiteboard calendar.

"It just sort of gives you a long-term vision," said Bourque. "Also, it gives me the day that I'm done, which is a nice thing to look forward to."

Bourque's time as electoral officer lasts until after the elections in March. Polls close officially on March 9.

"It's sort of been an interesting position, coming into a full-fledged election in a school that I'm just starting to get to know," said Bourque, who arrived at UVic in September.

The paid position of electoral officer is filled by committee decision after candidates have responded to the job advertisement. The hiring committee is chosen by the UVSS Board of Directors. According to Bourque, the most important qualification an applicant can have is a sound knowledge of electoral policies and their application.

While Bourque said that candidates' experience often comes from involvement in a provincial or federal party campaign rather than school politics, she herself has never been a card-carrying member of a political party.

Her own experience comes from her work last year on the student government elections at North Island College's Comox Valley campus.

"It's very different on the North Island. It's a completely different demographic," she said.

As a full-time philosophy student, Bourque knows that the sheer volume of work involved in her position will put a strain on her schedule as the election draws nearer.

However, she said that one of her strengths is keeping it together during crunch times, and her professors have so far been very supportive.

"[They] know from last semester that I don't really slack off in terms of my grades," she said. "You do what you can."

Bourque comes to a job that only last year was embroiled in a controversy that prolonged electoral official Ben Johnson's involvement in the process for weeks after the final votes should have been tabulated. The disqualification of two of the three candidates over policy breaches eventually ended up involving the provincial Supreme Court.

Despite this, Bourque is optimistic about the upcoming election. She feels that much of the problem last year resulted from the misunderstanding of unclear language in the electoral policies.

Recent and ongoing reforms to the electoral policies, Bourque said, will do much to clear up confusion.

Disputes can be filed in the two days following voting. Having looked over all the records from last year's elections, she said that the majority of complaints received were fairly minor and could have been easily settled.

The new reforms' crisper language and more comprehensive definitions will do much to clear up lingering confusion about permissible actions and will cut down on subjectivity.

Bourque is looking forward to the days ahead as her job becomes more involved. She will soon look at appointing her deputies and sees mostly clear sailing ahead.

"I think you really get into trouble when you just start second-guessing yourself," she said. "I do have a lot of resources, and I know how to access those, so I feel pretty good."

Given the nature of last year's election, the hope is that her optimism will be justified.

Corrections

The men's rugby score in the Vikes Scoreboard for the Jan. 27 game was incorrect last week. UVic beat Burnaby Lake 29-5.

In "Subtle's potency" in the Feb. 1 issue of the *Martlet*, we wrote that traditional publications such as *Rolling Stone* and *Spin* "cater to the lowest common denominator." We actually meant that those publications cater to a broader audience than sites such as *Pitchfork*.

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GRADUATING THIS YEAR?

2007 GRAD CLASS

SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Fri. Feb. 9th, 2007
10:30am SUB Room B025

COFFEE AND SNACKS PROVIDED

Motion to Amend Bylaw 8.1.a.i.

WHEREAS few students have applied for graduation in October; and
WHEREAS attendance at the Graduating Class Annual General Meeting in October has traditionally been very low; therefore
BIRT Bylaw 8.1.a.i. be amended to read as follows:
The Annual General Meeting of the Graduating Class shall be held in the first fifteen (15) days of November.

VACANCIES ON THE EXECUTIVE:

• SECRETARY, TREASURER & SOCIAL COORDINATOR

For more information call 721-8370 or email chair@uvss.uvic.ca

YOUR YEAR • YOUR PARTY

Silence and anger fuel rift in local parish

by Rosemary Westwood

One bishop, over 300 Catholic parishioners and three hours of questioning did little on Monday, Feb. 4 to diffuse the growing confusion and anger that many at Holy Cross Catholic Parish feel after the departure of both their pastor and office administrator within the last month.

Holy Cross parishioner Jean Forest called it a "painful experience."

Some members of Gordon Head's Holy Cross parish council allege that Father Michael Favero was pressured by Bishop Richard Gagnon to leave Holy Cross after Favero refused to fire the administrator, John Oetter. Oetter was accused of being homosexual and was therefore deemed unsuited to his position on the basis of his sexuality.

Forest, a former senator and human rights commissioner, said there is no question that John Oetter is gay.

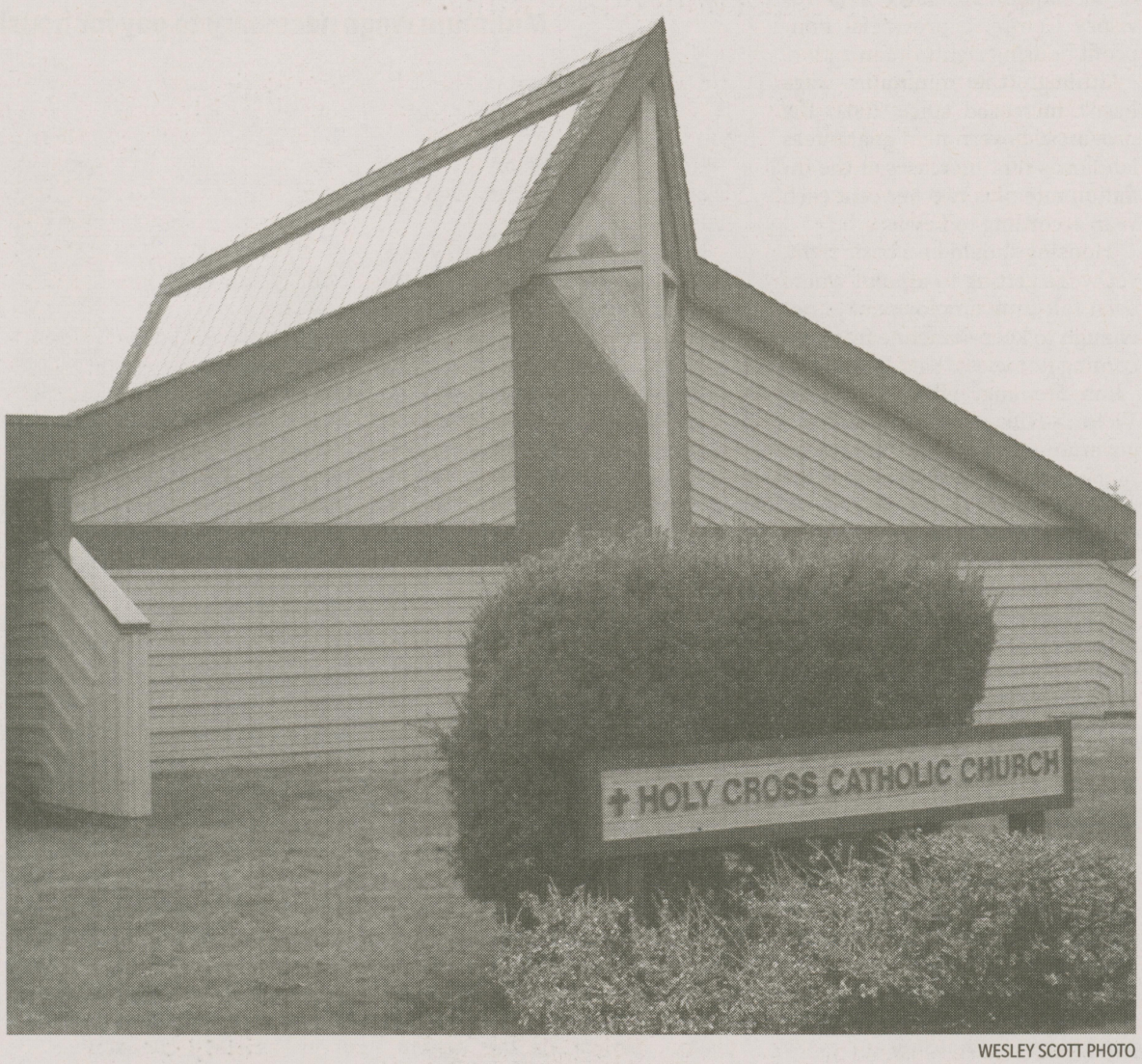
"He would never deny that," she said. The Catholic Church preaches tolerance and acceptance of homosexuals, but a homosexual act is considered a sin.

Bishop Gagnon of the diocese of Victoria met at Holy Cross with parish members and Catholics from across the city to answer questions about the loss of Favero on Jan. 18, 2007 and Oetter on Dec. 29, 2006.

"It's a very positive step towards dialogue [between the diocese and the parish]," UVic student Stefan Jonsson said of the meeting. "But it would have to go much further than tonight."

The bishop, dressed in black, his greying hair combed, elaborated on Favero's departure and said Favero had wished to resign from the parish last spring but was denied by the Bishop. When tensions increased at the parish over Christmas, said Gagnon, he decided to accept Favero's earlier request to leave the parish.

Gagnon would not comment on any questions related to Oetter due to respect for confidentiality, except to say that the terms of Oetter's departure were agreed upon and deemed fair and reasonable by both the diocese and Oetter. He repeatedly suggested that the parish did not have all the facts.



WESLEY SCOTT PHOTO

Many Holy Cross Catholic Church parishioners are upset after losing two members of the church.

"It was actually a quite illogical and disrespectful way to be here tonight," said Kate Fagan Taylor, a long-time parishioner and former UVic Catholic chaplain. "He sat there and said he couldn't answer any of our questions? So my question is, why did he come?"

Mediators at the meeting had to take a hard line as tensions and temperatures mounted, ordering the congregation to be respectful and avoid grumbling at the Bishop's responses. A smaller number of parishioners, however, applauded his comments.

Some members of Holy Cross, including those on the parish council, refused to accept Gagnon's version of events.

Jonsson, also a member of both the Catholic Students Association and the parish council, was one of a group distributing a timeline and information sheet that details what some parishioners believe to be the facts.

The Bishop called the timeline highly inaccurate. It states that Favero spoke with the council about Gagnon's insistence that Oetter be fired due to his sexuality. Even after Gagnon denied during the meeting that he pressured Favero to resign, Jonsson was not convinced.

The timeline is "the truth as we know it as Father Mike has told us," he said, and he believes Favero over Gagnon.

Many parishioners expressed anger that Gagnon would not let them contact Favero. Gagnon denied this and said that Favero wished not to speak any further and deserved rest.

However, Favero wrote in an e-mail, "I have been told by the bishop that I can not communicate with any of the parishioners, though if people contact me by phone, letters or e-mail, there will be some correspondence as it is your free will to speak to me." He went on to call it a "terrible situation," one in which "the articles and stories have been fairly accurate.... The bishop on the other hand is saying what has been printed and said is not the whole story."

Bishop Gagnon called media reports on the situation "rumours and accusations."

Two earlier meetings of Holy Cross parishioners and a letter from the bishop to the parish preceded the packed meeting, which saw every available seat in the church filled. The meeting began with the reading of two separate letters that had been drafted at earlier meetings and had a total of 241 signatures.

"The students really look up to the bishop, and to hear that the bishop, that certain parishioners are accusing the bishop of lying and acting immorally is really hard for them, and rightfully so," Jonsson said. Some students have decided to stay completely out of it, others are really concerned and some have been left out because much of the dialogue has taken place at regular masses. The bishop's letter wasn't read at the student mass.

Holy Cross is the designated parish for Catholic students at UVic. It holds a student mass each week and hosts potlucks and other student activities.

Of approximately 20,000 students at UVic, about 100 are active in the Catholic community, according to Jonsson.

"Both John Oetter and Father Mike were lovely people. The students are sad that they are no longer a part of the parish," said Claire Allen, UVic student and member of the Catholic Student Association.

Though it is possible for parishioners to take financial action by withholding contributions to the church, the effect would not bypass Holy Cross, which supports the diocese, said Jonsson, through an automatic withdrawal of 20 per cent from its account.

Many parishioners hugged one another at the end of the meeting.

"This parish knows there's a God because we see his divine goodness shining through Father Michael," said John Lucas, who then dissolved into tears.

"Father Mike is just the most—and I've thought about this—I think he's the holiest man I've ever met," said Jonsson.

"Holy Cross Parish will be all the stronger for this," said Forest, echoing the feelings of many parishioners after the meeting. "They were almost unanimous in their support of Father Mike and of John."

The bishop was unavailable for further comment at press time.

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Minimum-wage workers can't afford housing

by Norman Ed Baskerville

The minimum hourly wage in B.C. is not enough to pay the rent, according to a recent Canadian Housing and Renewal Association (CHRA) study.

An hourly wage of more than $10 is required to afford a bachelor suite in 10 of Canada's largest cities, the study found. A $10.79/hour wage is needed for a bachelor suite in Victoria, and a single parent would need to earn double the current minimum wage of $8/hour to afford a two- or three-bedroom apartment.

Rent levels have risen for all 28 Canadian metropolitan areas, making housing unaffordable for minimum-wage-earning employees working 35 to 40 hours per week. The study concluded that the hourly minimum wage necessary to afford housing in Victoria is the sixth highest in Canada. Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary top the list.

Employment in B.C. grew by nine per cent between 2000 and 2005, but during the same time period, the number of minimum wage earners increased by 36 per cent. British Columbia currently has the second-highest number of people working for minimum wage in the country, ranking behind only Newfoundland.

"The [CHRA] minimum wage study is another example of how totally unaffordable housing is becoming in British Columbia," said Martha Lewis, executive director of the Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre, a provincial non-profit housing rights organization.

Although the minimum wage hasn't increased since 2001, the provincial government guarantees landlords rent increases at the inflation rate plus two per cent each year, according to Lewis.

"Housing should be a basic right, yet we're getting to a point where even full-time employment is not enough to keep someone from becoming homeless," said Lewis.

Rob Fleming, NDP MLA for Victoria-Hillside, said the Liberal government's neglect of affordable housing for low-income earners is a big part of the problem.

"Unfortunately, the government's new housing plan took six years to start and only offered a timid rent supplement and no restoration programs like the 1990s Homes for B.C. program that had a hands-on, brick-and-mortar component," said Fleming.

The new strategy, Housing Matters BC, unveiled in October, promises to provide $40 million in rental aid to working families with annual incomes below $20,000.

Earlier this month in Penticton, NDP leader Carole James urged the Liberal government to raise the minimum wage in order to address the needs of citizens struggling to pay for housing and make ends meet. James also said that MLAs' salaries have a wage-indexing mechanism built in to account for inflation, making it all the more important that minimum-wage earners receive similar increases.

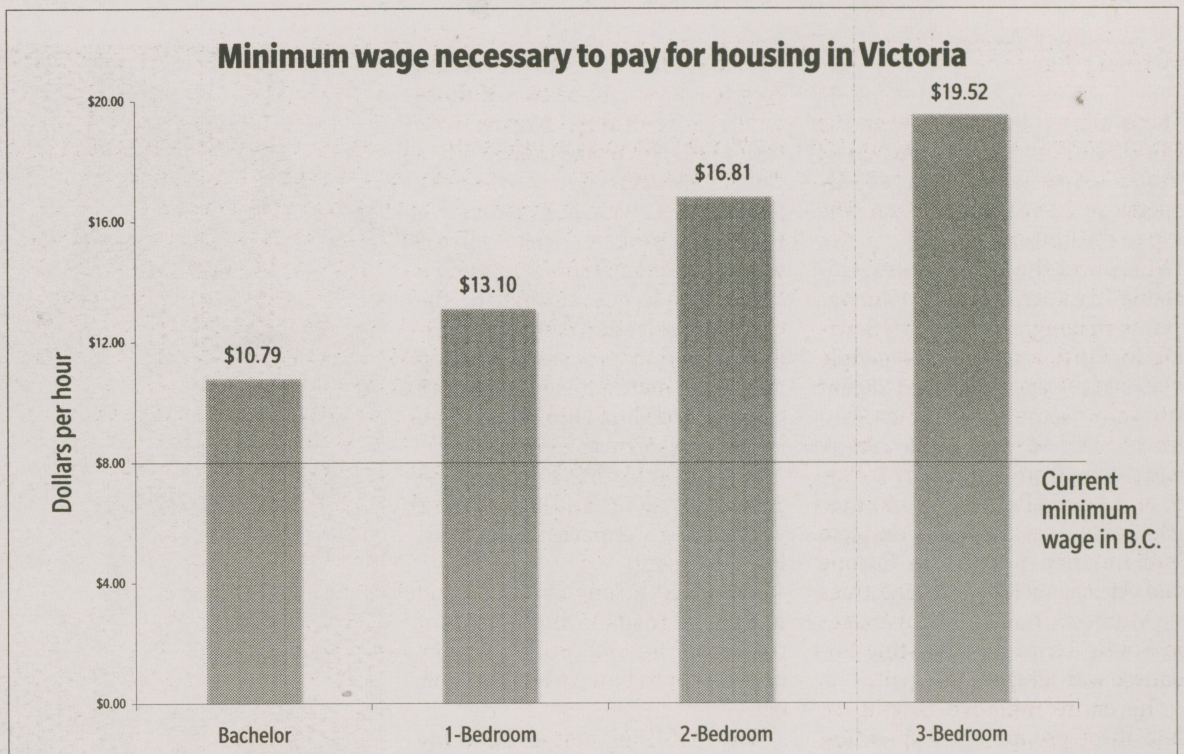
BC Federation of Labour president Jim Sinclair has suggested that the provincial government introduce legislation where increases to minimum wage are indexed annually in relation to the rate of inflation, similar to the system used in Washington state.

Fleming said there is some merit to indexing minimum wage to inflation but adds that the best approach to handling minimum-wage increases in the future is to set up an all-party commission. Fleming recommends that the commission consist of a panel of economists, labour market forecasters and others who are qualified to do a proper minimum wage survey, as was done in the '90s leading up to the last increase.

A poll initiated by the BC Federation of Labour in November stated that 79.3 per cent of British Columbians support raising the minimum wage to $10/hour Of those polled, 73.5 per cent supported the elimination of the $6/hour training wage that was introduced in 2001.

Fleming said that in the last session of parliament, he gave a private members' speech on abolishing the training wage.

"It's useless for most businesses and creates an un-level playing field for unscrupulous businesses who want to exploit workers."



STEVEN MASUCH GRAPHIC / INFORMATION FROM CANADIAN HOUSING AND RENEWAL ASSOCIATION

NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS

UVSS ELECTIONS

NOMINATIONS OPEN:
Mon, Feb 5, 9am

NOMINATIONS CLOSE:
Mon, Feb 12, 4pm

Have you considered running for the UVSS Board of Directors?

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Pick up a NOMINATION PACKAGE at the Elections Office (SUB B106).
Drop off filled out package at Elections Office.

Office hours : Mon, Tues & Wed 9:00am - 11:00am
Wed & Thurs 3:30pm - 5:00pm

For further information, please contact the Elections Office:
Phone: 472-5397 Email: election@uvss.uvic.ca

From pole to pole on human power

by Hilary Agro

There are problems all over the world, so how can one group of people try to tackle them all? By taking on each problem from the top to the bottom.

That's how the Pole to Pole Leadership Institute, based in Vancouver, is making a difference. Starting in April, a team of 24 people between the ages of 18 and 28 and from around the world will use "human power" to sail, ski, bike, kayak and walk from the North Pole to the South Pole in 18 months. Along the way, they will complete humanitarian projects in Europe and Africa, such as planting trees in Morocco, building orphanages in South Africa and assisting Sudanese war refugees in Egypt.

The entire initiative is split up into three groups: the Expedition Teams will be completing the actual pole-to-pole journey in two halves, north and south.

The Advanced Teams, which consist of 80 people from around the world, will meet up with the Expedition Teams as they spend six months working with established charities across Africa, focusing on issues such as wildlife habitat conservation, climate change, clean water and AIDS.

The Education Team will travel across Europe and North America, using the other teams' ongoing experiences to educate other young people about their own power to change the world.

UVic students Sethaly Beyer and Angus Argyle will be two of those young adventurers. Argyle, who will graduate from UVic with a PhD in statistics shortly before the journey, was selected through a multi-part process. After applying with a resumé, 10 sponsors and an essay, Argyle got through to the Canadian selection camp. A week-long selection process, the camp tests your mettle to see if you can handle gruelling months in all kinds of wilderness.

Argyle completed the process in September 2006 and said that it was quite an experience—almost like boot camp.

"We hiked through swamps and ran gravel roads in the middle of the night," he said. But to Argyle, it's worth it to be a part of the project.

"The first thing that grabbed my attention was the glamorous part, going from the North Pole to the South Pole," he said. "But there's also such an amazing range of projects that appealed to me, from digging water wells in Kenya to establishing fair trade with coffee farmers in Ethiopia. I was really interested in doing something different and stimulating outside of the office environment I've been in, working on my PhD. Also, to get a different perspective on life before I come back to Canada and start a career."

Sethaly Beyer, originally from Syracuse, N.Y., is set to take part in the international Selection Camp starting Feb. 12.

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

UVic students Sethaly Beyer and Angus Argyle will adventure across the world.

Beyer, a third-year Spanish major at UVic, dropped all her classes this semester to take part in the project. She originally became involved because of a Pole to Pole poster she saw at UVic in November. "It was about global warming and leadership, and how we all need to work to become inspired, and that's exactly how I feel," she said. "It's all kind of thanks to Angus, because he's the one who put up the poster."

After the selection camp, Beyer will find out which team she will be a part of. But she said that she'll be happy with whatever assignment she gets.

"I would love to be part of the Expedition Team, but the Advance Teams volunteer in Africa, so I'd love to do that as well.... The Education Teams go around to schools, and I love working with children, so any of them would be great."

For both Beyer and Argyle, the main focus is on educating other young people about the issues they will be working on.

"I'd really like to make a difference with global warming. I feel really strongly about it," said Beyer. "A lot of people, in the U.S. in particular, are not as aware of it as they should be. It could make a huge difference for people, especially youth, to be aware that they have the power to change things. If you educate them now, they'll make a difference later."

History statistics dusted off and revitalized

by Deborah Daudin

In 1892, there were only two men in Victoria who claimed to earn their living as actors. Ten years later, not only had the number increased to 16 male actors, but there was also a new occupation listing in the census for actresses, who outnumbered their male counterparts by 12.

By examining these census entries, we can learn about what individuals earned, where they worked and where they lived so we get a picture of Victoria in the Victorian era.

So before the next census occurs in Canada, take a spin back in time through the new Vancouver Island History website Vihistory.ca.

The site, edited by Patrick Dunae of the UVic history department and Malaspina University-College, is a compilation of data focusing on the period from 1871 to 1901. It includes the census and street directory statistics from that time.

Future plans for the site are to add in the data from the 1911 census recently released by the federal government, according to Dunae.

"Then we plan to transcribe the tax assessment data for those years as well as the fire insurance maps for the same period," he said. "Our idea has been to use census data as our core material, and then to try to intersect other records with the census."

The design of the site is unique because it allows researchers to see the makeup of census families and households through a hyperlink number. A search can be done through various criteria such as employer, occupation, family name or household number, which reveals statistics including age, religion, literacy, natural origins and marital status.

Historically, the census records provide nominal and statistical information, but from a sociological point of view, these records offer a remarkably detailed portrait of society for this part of Canada in the Victorian era.

"I want to assemble a constellation of historical records where researchers can find detailed information at a micro level," said Dunae. He hopes that people will use that information to explore historical themes on Vancouver Island and historical questions that have relevance to the region.

As a teaching tool, this website offers myriad possibilities. On the one hand, it has been a vehicle for student research assistants based at UVic and Malaspina who have played a major role in building this site. Research and work on the site has been a project for students enrolled in a specifically designed course blending micro-history and the Internet.

On the other hand, secondary school students who want to find detailed information about workers in the past could use the data on the site.

"No other city in Canada is so well documented, in terms of digital historical data, as Victoria," insists Dunae. "No other community has such a deep pool of digital data, which can be easily searched online through the viHistory web site. So, in this respect, the viHistory site is an exemplar and a model of local and regional history."

The website has been developing since the early 1990s when the Public History Group at UVic transcribed census data for the Island and Victoria. Dunae used their data to create a searchable database with help from colleagues at Malaspina. Student research assistants transcribed the census data for Vancouver Island, and eventually the data was integrated together.

Religion, suicide warriors and the politics of coercion

by Nathan Lowther

Conrad Brunk, director of UVic's Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, presented a thought-provoking lecture on Jan. 24 to an overflowing UVic lecture hall.

The speech, "Religion, Suicide Warriors and the Politics of Coercion," investigated the way the West interprets suicide bombing.

Brunk first questioned whether any moral difference exists between civilians being killed in attacks of terror and the "so-called collateral damage" of state-led offensives.

"While it is common for all suicide attacks to be identified as 'terrorist,' including those directed at military personal and targets, this is clearly an unwarranted assumption," said Brunk. "Many of these attacks are carried out by persons fighting against invading armies and are directed at soldiers."

Brunk argued that Western media and academia have whittled away any political objectives the suicide warrior may have, leaving only an irrational religious fervour as their motivation. While a perverted form of Islam drives some, said Brunk, focusing on this one element eliminates any need for Western leaders to engage in diplomacy or compromise.

According to the expert, the religious fanaticism that inspires Islamic martyrs is often viewed as nothing more than a disease that needs to be either permanently cured or amputated from the body of humanity.

Left unchecked, many believe this "illness" runs the risk of upsetting conventional power structures built on the ability of the stronger to impose their will on the weak. As George W. Bush has said numerous times, "We know who our enemy is, and they hate us simply because of our way of life."

Brunk encouraged his audience to consider the alternatives. "How much discussion have you seen in either the popular media or more scholarly journals attempting to understand the political objectives of those who engage in suicide attacks, terrorist or non-terrorist?"

Brunk also said that the strategic success achieved through this form of guerilla warfare will inspire others, even those outside the fundamentalist camp, to take up suicide attacks as a form of military resistance. Now that these groups have a strategy that allows them the opportunity to create a stalemate, traditional powers are finding their ability to coerce others to do their will threatened.

"For the ability to coerce is only as effective as the fear the threat of sanctions can induce in the person being coerced," said Brunk. "And a credible state must always carry out their threat." Thus the cycle continues.

That is why it is necessary to recognize the limits in technology to solve the world's problems, said Brunk. Marginalizing the suicide bomber's political objectives by dismissing them as religiously irrational will not make the bombings cease. And today's technology-based military is having no effect besides creating warriors.

University of Victoria Students' Society / Canadian Federation of Students Local 44

UVSS SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CFS FCE

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2007 - 3:00pm, MICHÉLE PUJOL ROOM *(large side)*

*Please Recycle

• AGENDA •

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **APPROVAL OF CHAIR**
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
   a. **Agenda of 07/02/15 SAGM**
4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
   a. **Minutes of 06/10/19 AGM**
5. **SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

Motion to amend Bylaw 18.3 – Right of Constituency Organisations to a voting representative on the Students' Society Board of Director
BIRT Bylaw 18.3 be amended as follows:
Bylaw 18.3.c.
WHEREAS currently constituency groups must hold a general meeting to appoint any Board representative; and
WHEREAS this process is time consuming, potentially expensive, and generally excessive, and as a result, many of the positions sit empty; therefore
BIRT if a Board representative from any advocacy group resigns from office, the advocacy group's governing body may appoint a member as an interim representative to sit on the Board until the next scheduled general meeting.

Motion to amend Bylaw 13 – Finances of the Students' Society
BIRT Bylaw 13 be amended as follows:
Bylaw 13.7
WHEREAS a referendum was held to direct student funds to the UVSS Women's Centre; and
WHEREAS these funds are currently held in a trust account; and
WHEREAS this trust account is not being controlled by the Women's Centre; and
WHEREAS to function as equity seeking advocates for marginalized students the Women's Centre must be control of the funds directed to them; therefore
BIRT student fees collected on behalf of the Women's Centre be directed in their entirety to an account specified by the Women's Centre.
BIFRT the Women's Centre manages funds according to their constitution and bylaws and be subject to the UVSS annual audit.

Motion to amend Bylaw 10.2 – Leaves of Absence
BIRT Bylaw 10.2 be amended to read as follows:
10.2 Leaves of Absence
Directors shall be permitted to take leaves of absence during the summer to facilitate co-op, work, or any school related activity that removes the Director from the Greater Victoria area.

Motion to amend Bylaw 10.3 – Absences from Board of Directors' Meetings
BIRT Bylaw 10.3 be amended to read as follows:
10.3 Absences from Board of Directors' Meetings
a. A Director who has missed four (4) Board meetings throughout her term without prior notice to the Board of Directors, except in the case of illness, shall be considered to have resigned.
   i. Written warning shall be provided to a Director upon missing the third meeting without prior notice.
   ii. The Director shall be considered to have resigned upon adjournment of the first meeting missed without prior notice after having received written warning.
   iii. Resignation shall be communicated to the Director in writing.
   iv. In the case that Directors' meetings must be scheduled on short notice, all reasonable efforts shall be made to notify all Directors. If a Director misses a meeting scheduled on short notice without submitting regrets, the Director may be excused of her absence if she can demonstrate that she was unable to receive notice of the meeting missed.
b. Directors must attend 50% of Board meetings throughout the Fall and Spring terms.
   i. This bylaw applies to Board meetings scheduled during the Fall and Spring term as set by the Board at the beginning of its term.
   ii. After December, a Board member who has missed 50% or more of Board meetings will be issued a final written warning. If her cumulative attendance falls below 50% after having received written warning, she will be considered to have resigned.
   iii. The Director will be considered to have resigned at the adjournment of the meeting, following final written notice, at which her attendance falls below 50%.
   iv. Resignation shall be communicated to the Director in writing.

6. **REPORTS**
   a. **Board of Directors Report**
   Motion to adopt the report of the Board of Directors
   BIRT the February 2007 report of the Board of Directors be adopted as presented.
   b. **Directors at Large Reports**
   Motion to adopt the reports of the Directors at Large
   BIRT the reports of the Directors at Large be adopted as presented.
7. **QUESTION PERIOD (limit 30 minutes)**
8. **OTHER BUSINESS**
9. **NOTICE OF MOTION**
10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
11. **ADJOURNMENT**

BRING YOUR STUDENT ID • Free coffee, tea & pizza

Algae, heat and pollution harm coral reefs

by Samantha Magnus

Coral reefs are a war zone, and the war is over space.

Isabelle Côté is a professor from Simon Fraser University who has been studying marine ecology for more than 20 years and recently published a report about the state of coral reefs in the Caribbean.

She came to UVic last month to share her findings in a seminar hosted by the biology department.

Corals are being ransacked by a whole horde of foes: pollution, coral bleaching, hurricanes and humans. Most people know that tropical rainforests and mangrove swamps are at risk, but while their areas are shrinking at annual rates of about one and two per cent respectively, coral cover is slipping by 12 per cent every year.

Côté's research focuses on identifying coral's main opponents in the Caribbean seas. On almost every reef (or the remains of reefs), precious space once occupied by live coral has been usurped by something else: algae.

The turnover of territory from animal to algae is not obvious to the untrained eye. During her seminar, Côté pulled out a colourful picture of a reef published in a newspaper beside a story about coral reef conservation.

"As you can see, it's a very nice photo," she said. "[But] it's right on track with the state of coral reefs in the Caribbean." The beautiful colours in the photo belonged to blades of algae.

Calcium carbonate skeletons from past generations of coral make up the bulk of a coral reef. Without live coral to upkeep this scaffolding, the bones of the reef gradually fizz away. The bouquet of algae choking out the live coral may look splendid to a photographer, but they bring bad fortune to the reef.

Philip Dearden, a professor in UVic's geography department, dreads what may lie ahead for coral reefs.

"Reefs epitomize the complexity of ocean ecosystems," Dearden wrote in an e-mail. "One of the main challenges is still our lack of scientific understanding of these systems."

Yet researchers don't quite understand how algae has managed to pirate into coral reefs. One explanation is a decrease in herbivory—the fish that normally eat the algae, giving the coral a fighting chance, are disappearing. In the 1980s, Côté studied an algae-munching urchin that was nearly exterminated by a Caribbean-wide plague. In the absence of this spiky predator, the reef's algae population exploded.

Just like pirates, algae are opportunists. While they profit from coral weakening, they are not the primary cause—they are a symptom of much grander civil unrest. The evidence? Côté said researchers have been "pinning our hopes on Marine Protected Areas" (MPAs), but added that they aren't as helpful as one might expect.

"MPAs do a great job if you want more fish," she explained. Inside reserve boundaries, fish are 3.7 times more abundant and algal growth is kept in check. But even in these sheltered areas, coral is dramatically losing ground.

One reason is that MPAs can't protect coral reefs from global warming. Rising water temperatures cause coral to lose its ability to photosynthesize in a fatal phenomenon called coral bleaching. The increase in hurricanes in the Caribbean is also climate-change related, according to Côté.

"Not just the numbers of hurricanes, but the number of severe hurricanes," she said. These storms reduce reefs to rubble, and "although coral does increase again, it never seems to recover."

Côté began researching reefs as an undergraduate when she studied blenny fish in Barbados. When she returned some years later, these tiny fish had all but disappeared, and no one seemed to have noticed.

"If it was a bird or a mammal, people would be up in arms," she said.

This issue of not noticing and of public ignorance about marine conservation is very serious, according to Côté. She pointed out that many assume coral reefs are only in the tropics, but "there are cold-water corals growing virtually on UVic's doorstep that rival their tropical counterparts in terms of beauty and complexity."

"Those coral reefs are less resilient than tropical ones because they grow extremely slowly, and they are perhaps even more threatened by fishing activity," said Côté.

The National Marine Conservation Areas Act protects two sites—one in Ontario and one in Quebec. Dearden's work relates to the creation and evaluation of MPAs in Southeast Asia, so he's very familiar with the threats that coral reefs face.

MARIA UYARRA PHOTO

Isabelle Côté explores the corals in the Caribbean up close.

When it comes to MPAs, "Canada is way behind the rest of the world," he wrote. "Over 30 years ago, there were discussions to establish national MPAs in the Gulf Islands."

Referencing "the recent refusal by Canada to support the UN moratorium on bottom trawling in the high seas," Côté said the "Canadian governments have a pathetic record at protecting the sea."

The federal government has conducted a feasibility study on creating a national marine conservation area in the southern Strait of Georgia, which would include the Gulf Islands, an area of interest for both government and environmental groups.

Côté plotted the health of coral reefs against national economies, and found a remarkable trend: while the richest countries generally can afford to protect, and the poorest countries may not have the means to exploit, the middle-ground developing countries abuse their coral reefs the most.

On top of obliteration by hurricanes, weakening by global warming and pillaging by algae, there's the threat of those who would use dynamite to pick souvenirs or sandwich meat from the sea.

"Certainly poverty and greed are two main drivers of reef degradation," wrote Dearden.

"I want my children to be able to swim over coral reefs like I was able to as a graduate student, and I'm going to keep working to make that happen," Côté said.

Côté recommended discouraging reef plundering through making smart consumer choices, practising responsible eco-tourism, contacting politicians who have the power to legislate MPAs in Canada and supporting the study of coral reefs.

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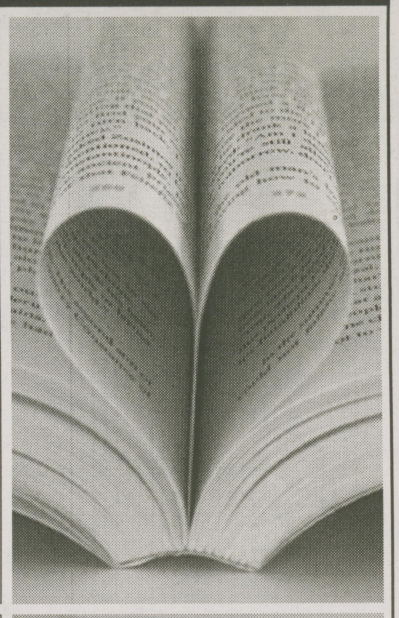

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Take your Valentine's Day and shove it

Use these techniques to feel superior to people in relationships

by Hilary Agro

Apparently I missed something when I was growing up. I don't know how every other kid learned that Valentine's Day is about romantic love, because this is a notion that took a long time for me to figure out, and it still seems wrong. Think about it.

When you're a kid, Valentine's Day means that you make paper cards for your classmates and eat a bunch of candy.

Where exactly in this tradition do we learn, 10 years later, that we are expected to celebrate the day exclusively with a significant other, and, more importantly, if said other is non-existent, that we must spend the day as well as the weeks beforehand bitching about this fact?

Fuck that. I still associate Feb. 14 with, at most, friends, chocolate and little cartoon-laden Valentines that say, "I choo-choo-choose you!"

I was too busy trying to give myself sugar-induced diabetes when I was a kid to realize that Valentine's Day is about anything more than pink and red and corny slogans.

However, while I plan to spend the day eating chocolate and watching *Daily Show* reruns in my underwear (hey, I'm not changing my routine for some stupid holiday), some people care that they're alone and need to find something to do to make the day a slightly less painful one. So I've compiled some helpful suggestions to make this lonely Valentine's Day a memorable one.

- ♥ Write some emo poetry and set it to an acoustic guitar. Don't forget: Power chords are golden. You can never go wrong with power chords.
- ♥ Walk into a crowded elevator and press the emergency stop button. Hand out name tags and instigate an impromptu speed-dating session.
- ♥ Have a loud fake conversation on the bus with your "sweetheart." Let it degenerate into near-phone sex until you get kicked out. The louder, the better.
- ♥ Kill Hugh Grant and/or Meg Ryan.
- ♥ Be adventurous—discover a new porn genre. What exactly is abasiophilia? Time to find out!
- ♥ Complain all day about being single. This is a surefire way to attract a mate.
- ♥ Carve your crush's initials into a tree—or your arm, if you took up my first suggestion. Loser.
- ♥ Do something dirty—like a hobo.
- ♥ Make your attached friends' days as miserable as possible. Ignore all hints at giving couples alone time until you are physically forced out the door.
- ♥ Become a born-again virgin. Or at least tell people that you are before you go home and call an escort service.
- ♥ Start a new tradition, and involve fire somehow.
- ♥ Eat 16 pies and cry yourself to sleep.
- ♥ Tell horrible Valentine's Day jokes incessantly, like "Did you hear about the nearsighted porcupine? He fell in love with a pincushion!" Laugh really, really hard at every one.
- ♥ Wear pink-and-red spandex. It hides the crippling loneliness well.
- ♥ Practise acting surprised when those flowers you ordered for yourself from your "secret admirer" arrive.
- ♥ Organize a Secret Valentine ... with your cats.
- ♥ Every time you see a couple, come up with creative predictions about how messy and painful their breakup is going to be. Your smile will brighten their day, and no one will be the wiser.
- ♥ Bring "special" brownies to your workplace on Valentine's Day party. Act offended if your boss eats fewer than three. Sit back and enjoy the entertainment.
- ♥ Find a new Facebook stalkee. Nothing's more flattering than knowing someone's interests, classes, phone number and blood type before you even meet them.
- ♥ Wear all green and walk around with a Guinness, looking confused.
- ♥ Three words: mail-order prostitute.
- ♥ Make yourself some fun Valentine's Day cocktails, like a Strawberry Kiss or an Amaretto Cupid. Then get drunk. So very drunk.
- ♥ For the ladies: have a "you" day: buy yourself a bag of cinnamon hearts, some candles and a vibrator.

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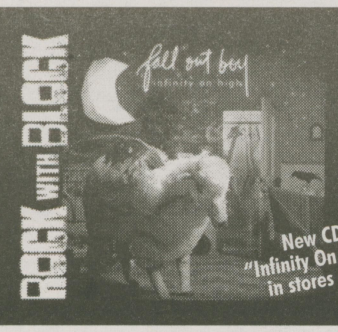

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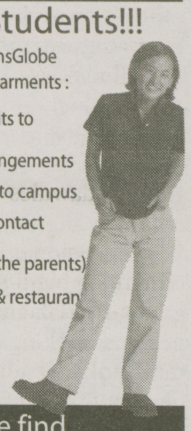

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Beaver Tails on the Rideau Canal

by Steve Carey

STEVE CAREY PHOTO

Customers line up for Beaver Tails in Ottawa.

The night is black and cold while people skate on the Rideau Canal, a perpetually groomed expanse of ice that runs through the centre of Ottawa. I can't wait to lace up my rental skates and get to this 175-year-old great wonder of the world.

It's been about eight years since I've skated, and it's scary to step out onto the canal. The ice is hard and has the consistency of concrete. The surface is groomed—some patches are like glass, but there are fist-sized chunks missing that force you to hunch up over your skates and bend your knees, hoping you can absorb the shock in them before you fly face-first into the ice.

It's been an unusually warm winter for Ottawa, so mild the 29th Winterlude Festival—an annual spectacle of ice sculptures, bonfires, sporting events and concerts—almost didn't happen. Now, with winter back, the ice sculptures are out and there's a fresh dusting of snow expected tomorrow.

I make an attempt to skate backwards to be in a picture and almost fall over. The wind has dropped off and the temperature is now a toasty –11 C. The ice glows an iridescent white.

Right now there are hundreds of people on this 5-kilometre stretch of ultra-thick ice, but on Friday they'll open the rest of the 7.8-kilometre expanse and thousands will flood onto it for the festivities. Some hockey players skate with quick powerful strides, while an older couple holds hands and leisurely dawdles along in the cold night.

Concession stands sit on the ice. There's a big line for Beaver Tails, deep-fried flat bread smeared with sugar, maple glaze or cinnamon. It's the Ottawa treat that everyone in town recommended, so I have one and carry on.

There are toques everywhere. Lovers kiss in tasseled toques, hockey players in toques sweep down on a puck, a mother wearing a toque pushes her toqued daughter in a sled. Even the guy in the skate shop wears a toque.

It's so dark it's hard to see the ice. After a few kilometres, I'm able to make out what I should and shouldn't skate over and pick up more speed.

Mini Zambonis groom the canal one lane at a time. Dow's Lake, the site of Saturday's birthday party for the canal, is being plowed to prepare for the winter triathlon on the day of Winterlude's opening.

The buildings along the canal are brownstone and granite, giant structures that look like what you'd imagine post-colonial buildings in Ottawa would look like. All the bridges have towers and gatehouses, harkening back to 1812 when Lt.-Col. John By decided to build the canal in order to protect Upper Canada from a future United States invasion.

I think of Parliament, anglophones, francophones, how everyone here speaks French and how I don't understand them.

While trying to conjugate a verb, I fall just like I was taught: arms straight out in front of me, elbows locked, wrists bent back unnaturally.

I get up, hit the end of the canal and turn back, heading down the skateway past Patterson Creek, a canal offshoot. A kid on skates passes me and says a cheery "bonjour." I reply the same and decide I'll have another Beaver Tail after I turn in my skates.

UVSS

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Editorial

Support for sport funding

UVic's varsity athletes work hard. Many of them train every day. Many Vikes represent Canada at international competitions. You'd think the university would be able to cover its players' costs of competing, but sadly, that's not true.

UVic's 17 women's field hockey players, for instance, pay hundreds of dollars each year to purchase sticks and shoes. The team's budget only covers one semester of competition, so the players have to run camps for kids and sell a calendar on the side to be able to compete after Christmas.

In the spring, when they're running on fundraising dollars, the team can't afford hotels on the road. They billet, sometimes with as many as seven athletes staying at one home. And UVic's best field hockey players are the worst off. Student field hockey stars pay thousands of dollars of their own money to represent their country. And then there's tuition, room and board, beer money....

And it's the same across Canada. Many athletes are forced to find part-time jobs, which isn't very easy for those who train daily. It's no wonder many of Canada's top athletes head down to the United States for school, lured by full-ride scholarships that include tuition and room and board.

And while the university could be doing more to help its athletes, it's hard to blame our cashed-strapped institution for putting books before basketball. It's our sporting organizations that should be getting behind our athletes.

Canadian Interuniversity Sport, the governing body for university athletics, restricts schools from providing athletic scholarships over the cost of tuition. The needless restriction prevents Canadian schools that do have financial muscle from fully supporting their athletes.

Although UVic sports programs such as rowing and field hockey regularly produce national-team-calibre athletes, the governing bodies of these sports turn the other cheek when it comes to funding. The Royal Canadian Golf Association recognizes the value of university athletics, providing funding to UVic's golf team that the university can't afford. Why isn't Field Hockey Canada or Rowing Canada stepping up to the plate?

And then there are the corporate sponsors. UVic basketball players get two pairs of court shoes free from New Balance each season. The men's team even got an all-expenses-paid road trip to Arizona for two games against top U.S. schools last semester, courtesy of Basketball Travelers Inc., a company that organizes basketball tours.

On the flip side, the women's field hockey team has a "stick deal" with AK Pro Canada. While they get a discount over the retail price, players still have to pay $200 each for an equipment bundle. The men's team has no such "deal." And goalies from both teams are forced to find their own equipment, which can cost thousands of dollars.

Maybe it's unfair to blame corporations for only sponsoring popular sports like basketball, where hundreds of fans will see players' shoes each game. Perhaps it's understandable that sports such as field hockey, which carry on relatively undetected, get left behind.

Possibly, the blame lies with us, the fans. Why is it that we fill McKinnon Gym for a basketball game but only watch soccer and rugby on TV instead of enjoying the live outdoor action provided by UVic's fine crop of athletes? Admission to sporting events is even free for UVic students.

Maybe the blame lies with us. Because if we turn out to support our teams, corporate sponsors, governing bodies and the university may just follow.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at our weekly editorial meeting at 3 p.m. every Friday in the *Martlet* office (SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

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ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

LETTERS

Reality check, whiners
I am wondering where the mass groups of smokers are who are causing so much grief on campus that we need to ban smoking in outside areas.

I am not a smoker and never plan on being one. However, I don't see the need to banish the few smokers at UVic to the far reaches of the parking lot.

In my five years here I have never noticed groups of more than a few people smoking in one area, and they are some of the most considerate smokers I have ever encountered. They rarely stand close enough to doors to allow smoke to drift in, never mind creating large walls of smoke that the rest of us are forced to walk through.

I think we in British Columbia have become spoiled by our non-smoking laws and have forgotten what it is like elsewhere in the world.

To those who wish to enforce this ban, I suggest they travel outside of our wonderful province, or even off campus, for a bit of a reality check. Ride on a train in a smoking compartment for a few hours, go clubbing or to a bar and have to wash every piece of clothing afterward, or even just eat at a restaurant.

Relatively speaking, we have a very small smoking population here on campus and we should appreciate the courtesy shown by most of our UVic smokers. Besides, is the bit of cigarette smoke we encounter really more dangerous than the exhaust fumes while waiting at the airport or the aspartame in our Pepsi?

Darlene Sibilleau, UVic student

Abort the stigma
The article "Abortions on the rise" (*Martlet*, Feb. 1) does little to alleviate the stigma attached to pregnancy and abortion.

The title itself implies that there is something immoral about abortions when one considers that in headlines, "on the rise" is often preceded by socially unacceptable activities such as murder or drug use.

Abortions are legal in Canada so there is no reason to imply that it is wrong for a woman to exercise her reproductive rights—yet that is what this article seems to do.

One interviewee "admits she is shocked at the prevalence of abortion," but from what I understand, Victoria is the main centre for abortions on Vancouver Island, so the statistic of 2,000 abortions in Victoria may actually reflect the amount of abortions on Vancouver Island per year.

The women who choose to get these abortions could include women who must get one for health reasons, or they could even rape victims.

Whatever the reason a woman has for getting an abortion, we should never consider her to be a slut for taking control of her reproductive body and sexuality.

Sheila Markey, UVic student

Clarification and credit
I'm delighted to see two news items about Access UVic in the Feb. 1 *Martlet*.

I do have a couple of corrections, however.

"The blind gain access to UVic policy" might mislead some readers. Access to UVic policy is not being gained by blind students. No university policy will be available in braille.

But having the UVSS constitution and bylaws in braille will make it easier for blind students to participate in student politics on an equal basis with others. It is access to political experience that is being gained. This will benefit the disability movement.

Second, although I'd love to, I can't take credit for initiating the motion. I'd like to thank Kevin Peterson, our previous Constituency Representative, for putting the motion forward last summer. Thanks, Kevin!

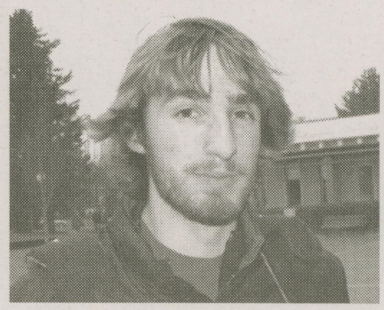
Kyla Berry, Access UVic rep

ON THE SPOT

by Willie Li
This week's question: What's your favourite study music?

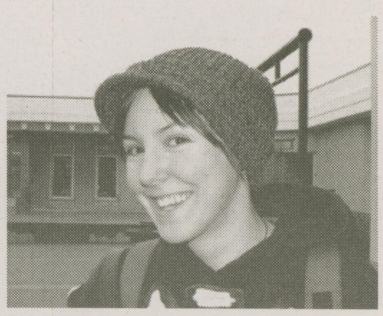
Jennifer Shelbey

"Classical, there's no lyrics."



Lucas Kitchen

"Matt Mays, quite easy listening."



Kelly Marshall

"Shuffle on my iPod."

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Solution to UVic's rabbit issue

by Mike Vasilev

They've taken over the campus, and they know it. And they've been getting pretty damn smug about it. The bunnies have been getting a free ride for way too long. Enough is enough; it's time for the little bastards to go. It's time we did what we should have done a long time ago.

There have been past efforts to get rid of them, but never on a big enough scale. Despite rumours, UVic doesn't actually cull the rabbits. There has, unfortunately, never been any mass conspiracy or grand scheme against the rabbits. No organization and no direction—just a few lone rangers and the odd drunk aimlessly and illegally doing what the lesser of us can only dream of.

Now, I know what you're going to say: "Kill all the rabbits!? We can't do that! What on Earth would we do with all the bodies?!" Well, we'd sell them, of course—no wood-chippers or mass graves needed. And before you even think it, it's not "cruel." It's not cruel because it's lucrative. If God didn't want us to do it, He wouldn't have made it so goddamn profitable.

To be sure, there is a vast and booming market for their furry little carcasses, and it's only getting bigger. Just last week it was announced that North Korea intends to purchase a supply of rabbits from German breeder, at 80 euros per head, to help feed its population. Since then, China has also shown interest in the rabbits as a potential food source.

If the Germans can make a buck out of them, we can too. And with 23 million North Koreans in the peak of a hunger epidemic, there's never been a better time to strike a deal. It's true that the German rabbits are about four times as big as ours and are also not as inbred, diseased or genetically defective. But that's just the beauty of communism: what matters is quantity, not quality—and oh, do we have quantity.

Selling the rabbits might even lead to key diplomatic talks, possibly paving the way for world peace in our time and really putting UVic on the map. Or, better yet, it could lead to some sweet and exclusive trade deals. North Korea could be our next Cuba. There is potential here, people—money to be made and nuclear armaments to be had.

In the event that Kim Jong-il fails to deliver the cash or starts an international war, fear not, because there are plenty of prospects for the bunnies' bodies at home. We could sell them to any number of high-end fashion designers to be transformed into winter coats, earmuffs or pooch parkas.

Or we could go with the tried and true, the cosmetics industry's laboratory. It's not as glamorous as high fashion nor as glorious as North Korea, but shampoo needs testing, people need shiny hair and our rabbits need a new home.

With so many great causes out there, we'd be selfish not to give up the rabbits. We can't let our emotions hold us back from doing the right thing. The economics make sense. The logistics are in place. We have the way—we just need the will.

Loving Feb. 15 (no, not a typo)

by Maria Konstantinov

When Feb. 14 comes around, couples, undefined lovers and stalkers begin to stir, planning their attempts at courtship and deciding where to blow money on expensive sautéed shrimp and baked feta cheese. The single and the bitter shrug it off as a "Hallmark holiday" and gag at St. Valentine.

But aren't we are all focusing on the wrong day here? Sure, the 14th is Valentine's, but the real time of joy and gaiety is the day after Valentine's Day. That's right, the glorious 15th of February. My three reasons: candy, betrayal and rejection. Read closely.

Second to the Christmas season, Valentine's is the time that candy and card companies generate their highest sales. Companies may increase the price of their goods, knowing that Billy Joe wants to buy his Betty Sue some delectable chocolates. They'd be crazy not to exploit the lovesick market with chocolate-filled cupid statues.

But you won't catch me out buying over priced cocoa that will be slammed down in mere minutes. I wait until the day after, when all the Valentine's-themed candy and gifts get dramatically slashed in price and placed on the clearance shelf. I get way more for my buck and have a nice stash to snack on for the spectator events to come.

Couples breaking up the day after Valentine's is the second-most intriguing and interesting part of Feb. 15. I've seen so many breakups that occurred mere hours after the Valentine's hype.

No one wants to be the person who breaks off a relationship in the days leading up to Valentine's—or worse, on the day itself. As a spectator, I watch and listen for updates on breakups on the 15th as if it were a sport. An influx of broken hearts and teary eyes presents itself, and I act as if I didn't expect it. What can I say? I love drama.

And as if that weren't enough, there are the untriumphant pursuits of love and the disappointed on the day after.

Valentine's is when many feel they've acquired the courage to do something about their fondness toward someone. Sometimes they luck out, but usually they don't.

But worse than seeing someone being rejected is knowing that someone has been accepted out of pity and for the sake of the "spirit of Valentine's Day" (if there even is such a thing). People are overly romantic and soft, so the cards must be played right and with much care.

Valentine's isn't really different than any other day of the year. If there is somebody special that you care about, I'm sure your loving gesture would be appreciated much more on a day that does not subconsciously force you to gush.

Second-hand smoking in Clearihue

by Jane Griffith

I respect smokers, but I wish I didn't have to inhale cigarette smoke while I work in the Clearihue computer lab. Smokers outside cause me to type with my shirt over my nose and a consequent kink in my neck.

Though my complaint comes in the wake of a proposal to ban the sale of cigarettes on campus, this is not at all what I am interested in.

I completely understand about infringing on the rights of smokers, even though I'm not one. My grandma loved smoking. Before her death, she often said she would have started smoking as a young girl all over again even if she had known about the risks, which weren't advertised until the 1940s.

Her heavy addiction coloured her white hair a beautiful yellow, saving on monthly hair appointments. Her addiction saved me from dyeing paper with soy sauce when I made fake treasure maps, as years of nicotine stains gave her loose-leaf an antiquated look.

My whole family respected her choice to smoke, not saying anything when she smoked around us and taking her out for a smoke when we were in public spaces. She consistently demonstrated her passion for the habit, telling us how much she enjoyed it and even wheeling herself from the sixth floor of the Victoria General Hospital to smoke and later smoking in the Saanich Peninsula Hospital among her roommates (most hooked up to oxygen tanks).

We would facilitate her smoking as much as possible because she made a choice. We crystallized our respect in her obituary two years ago, stating that she would always "light up" around her family.

But when somebody isn't a family member making the funniest and most inflammatory comments I've ever heard (my grandma would say I was "whorin' around" if I mentioned I was off to the library and once stated that "Johnny Cash couldn't sing worth sour ol' shit"), I'm not interested in breathing in their smoke.

I've been (second-hand) smoking more now than when my grandma was alive because of the air vents in my apartment and because of the hours I log in the Clearihue computer labs.

The apartment is a battle I've already made steps to remedy. My landlord has conducted an exceptional experiment involving lemongrass incense to prove his air vents are indeed working, and I have called the Tenant Hotline to learn that clean air is a privilege, not a right.

And what about the computer lab? I've smelled smoke in there for at least three years, and nothing has changed. I am interested in learning if the ashtrays outside of the building are near intake vents or if the lab has heeded any of the complaints I know people are lodging informally.

Clearihue, live up to your name and clear the hue of your air. You have been way too long in taking steps to fix this problem.

The language revolution is here

by Leif Nordholm

Uptight academic hermits and sadistic elementary school teachers alike once thought that grammar and syntax were useful. It was once en vogue to turn minds away from the creative potential of human expression.

With this spirit, Samuel Johnson codified the English language because he believed that not doing so would have awful consequences.

But times have changed. A new style of speech has emerged. It's called "North American Slang." I learned about this phenomenon from the greatest liberator of the English language, President George W. Bush.

One night I was watching television, which is my preferred way to learn about the world. Bush was making a speech.

He described a particular action plan as being "gooder" for the American people. I looked for this comparative in the dictionary. No luck. My limited Canadian dictionary did not define this progressive American word choice.

I assumed Canada was lost in the Dark Ages. People around campus still talked about better places to go rather than the goodest spots. I told my wife that she had just cooked the most tastiest broccoli au gratin I'd ever had. She shook her head in response to my fractured superlative.

But later I picked up the Friday edition of my second-favourite paper, the *Peninsula News Review*. UVic English professor Michael Cullen had an article in it. Surely the active minds at Victoria's brain bank are up-to-date, I thought.

In that article, he described a predicament that went from bad to badder. I did a double take because I couldn't believe my eyes. Badder. And I muttered to myself (as I often do) that ancient catchphrase, "Eureka!"

And this time the Oxford Canadian Dictionary did have an entry for this word, defining it as North American slang for admirable or excellent.

Perhaps the revolution is happening and Canada just isn't ready for it. But I did learn one thing: regarding the mutability of language is important.

2007 MARTLET PHOTO CONTEST :LOVE

CONGRATULATIONS to the runners-up of the *Martlet*'s Photo Contest 2007. Love is indeed in the air this Valentine's Day with submissions from students that capture friendship, longing and joy. We at UVic are also apparently united in our love for animals—not a bad thing with a campus covered in rabbits. A special congratulations to the winning entry, submitted by Felix Chen.

Latte Heart by Felix Chen

"I hope you guys enjoy this photograph! I had fun crafting the latte, taking its picture and get Valentine's Day."

Mensajo by Sarah Taggart

"A couple of weeks after Valentine's Day 2006, a love message was scribbled on the Empire State Building and stood above Manhattan."

Puppy Love by Melody Pyefinch

"While all eyes were turned toward a coming parade at Port McNeill last summer, this little girl only had eyes for her puppy."

A Kiss Betwe

Love Left Behind by Dhiren Bhatia

"Picking up after a one-night stand that could've been something...."

Giraffe by Amanda Banks

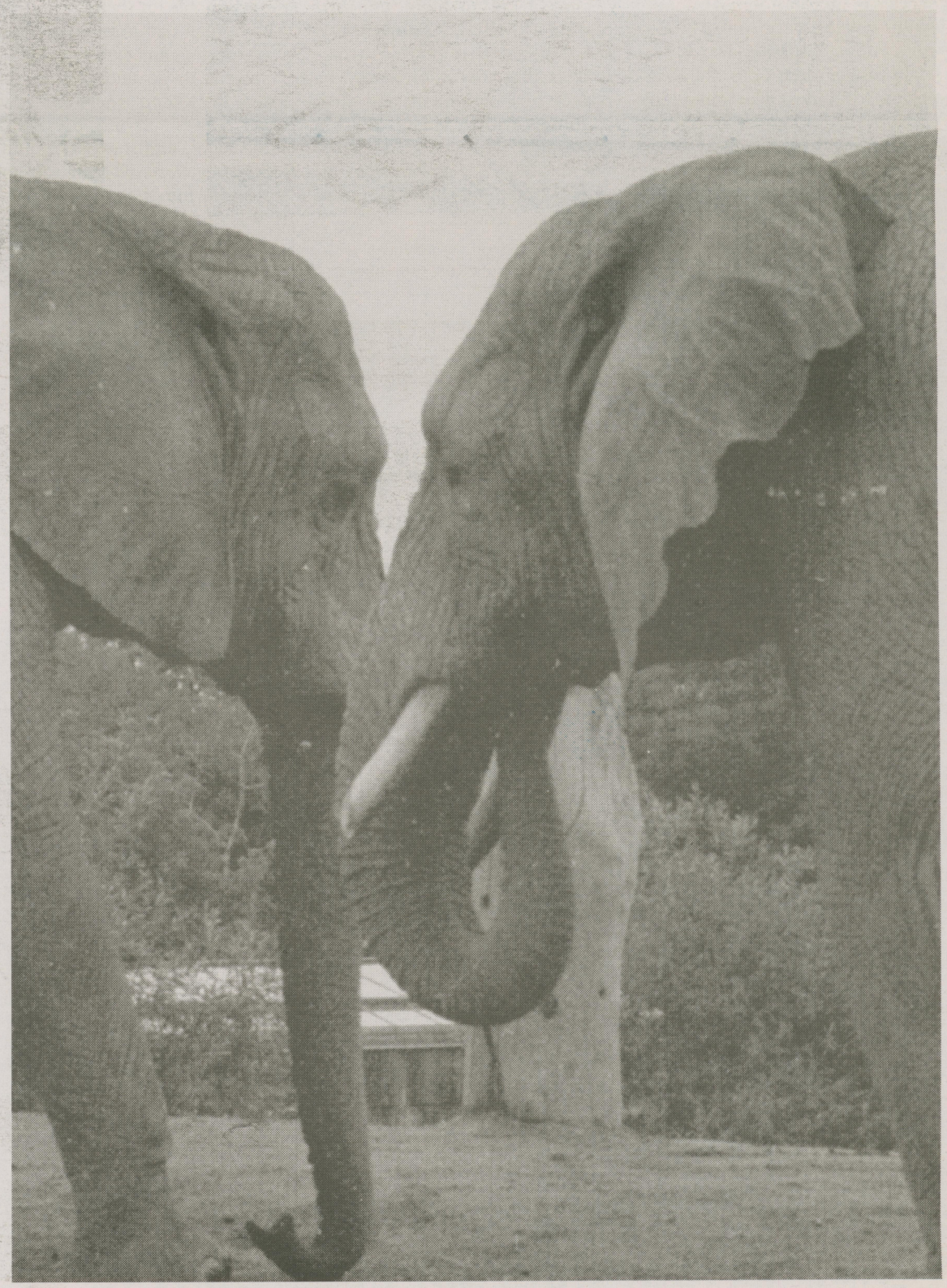
"I lived near the giraffe centre in Kenya as I

nd getting to drink it! Happy

Love – Baby Bunny Style **by Yianni Pappas-Acreman**

"Come on—admit it. You fall in love with the baby bunnies every spring. They fall in love with each other too."

tween Friends **by Tess Granger**



as I child and went to feed them every week, where I developed a love for them."

Notice Me **by Kim Armstrong**

"They're elephants. Come on."

Unconsciously didgeridooing

Shane Philip feels like something in him takes over when he plays—soon it might take him all the way Down Under

by Clare Noble

PROVIDED PHOTO

Shane Philip, a mult-instrumentalist, has found round-the-world popularity on MySpace.

Shane Philip, a multi-talented, didgeridoo-playing, drum-kicking, guitar-strumming singer from B.C., has passion for performance and a goal of international touring.

Philip is a self-taught didgeridoo player who, while living on Quadra Island and teaching in Campbell River, found himself intrigued by the instrument after attending a show at the community centre.

"I heard it and was blown away by it," said Philip. "It was amazing!"

From there, Philip bought a didgeridoo and moved to Smithers, a small town in northern British Columbia.

"When I was learning how to play the didge, I already knew how to play the guitar and the drum kit. [The fusion] was kind of accidental, I suppose," said Philip. "I sat with my guitar at the drum kit and I kind of put the didgeridoo into the loop. I found I was able to play the guitar, the kick drum and the didgeridoo, quite easily together—playing the didgeridoo is kind of like playing another drum with my breath."

Intentional or not, Philip's one-man band and his unique performance style have lead to great success in his tours across Canada. Philip will be performing at Logan's Pub on Thursday, Feb. 8.

"It's funny, when I play the didgeridoo it's almost like something takes over—it's almost an unconscious thing that happens."

Philip's unconscious certainly knows how to work an audience, as he has a reputation for bringing the crowd to its feet in both outdoor festivals and indoor venues.

"It's quite exciting for me when people get up and dance, because when that happens I know that I can have this reciprocal sort of energy happening," said Philip, whose playing is influenced by the way his audience dances.

"Once I get up there and start playing a rhythm, it's almost as if the didgeridoo is playing itself... It feels that way sometimes," he pauses for a moment and then continues with a laugh, "if it's a good night."

With audiences as varied as his songs, Philip manages to please almost any crowd.

"Busking in Coombs made me realize that people are people—it doesn't seem to matter where they're from or what age they are. I'm fairly confident that I'll find some things that they'll like," said Philip. "If they don't like one song but stick around for the next one, chances are it'll be something more suitable for them."

Philip has had a few rather unusual performing experiences.

"I went to go and play at this venue in Golden. There were two other bands playing there that same night, and they were punk-folk—they were over the top and screaming into their microphones. It was funny because here's me with my set-up, doing my hippie music, talking about peace and love. They opened for me, playing their angry, sarcastic punk music, and then I had to go on and play. It was a bizarre experience. But it led to great things for me. They hired me again and it was completely packed the next time I played."

With two CD releases to date, *Om Cooking* (2005) and *Earthshake* (2006), Philip has been likened to artists such as Ben Harper and Xavier Rudd, but even though these comparisons are clearly positive, he remains confident about the unique quality of his music.

"Usually what happens is that people compare me to [Rudd] when they hear about or see the set-up. As soon as people hear what I play, the comparisons usually stop."

With the publicity that his CDs have been given, particularly over MySpace, Shane now has a following of fans in Australia, where he hopes to tour in November.

With shows continually booked around the country and international tours on the horizon, it doesn't look like stardom can shake the down-to-earth personality out of this talented, nature-loving performer.

"Nothing beats a nice outdoor festival," he laughs, "a hot evening at a festival."

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PROVIDED PHOTO

Tim Crouch directs guest actors in his faux-hypnotism show.

Read this, act natural

by Andrew Bishop

"There will be no sex," Tim Crouch proclaims to the audience. "Sounds shit, doesn't it?" Crouch's new play, *An Oak Tree*, which had a run at Victoria's Metro Studios this past week, asks the question, "Is the average theatre-goer merely a shameless voyeur?" And the answer is complicated.

The play's plot, however, is simple. It is the story of a hypnotist performing a show in a seedy bar a year from now. We are the audience of the hypnotist's show, but rather than hypnotizing us, a guest actor (new each night and wearing a headset to receive clandestine instructions from Tim) is invited onstage to act the parts of 10 fictional people who let Crouch hypnotize them. Eventually, the only character left onstage is Andy Smith, a 46-year-old man, who, we gradually learn, has lost his daughter three months before in a car accident caused by the hypnotist.

The action switches between the scene in the bar and the side of the road where the daughter was killed on her way to a piano lesson. An oak tree that grows nearby becomes the object of Andy's hope and grief as he projects his daughter's image onto the sturdy trunk and branches.

Last Thursday's guest actor, UVic theatre professor Erin Ormund, is encouraged to react to the events as they unfold as realistically as possible. In this sense, we can empathize with her reactions because they are not unlike our own.

She constantly receives instructions from Crouch on where to stand and what to say, details that serve to make the whole thing seem somewhat fake and contrived; though it effectively creates the atmosphere of hypnotism.

Crouch jumps out of character between almost every scene in order to praise Ormund on her acting or to address the play from a director's point of view. At one point, he asks Ormund how she thinks the play is going, and Ormund responds, reading from a script, "Well ... I think it's really, really well written."

Meanwhile, the audience is drawn in by the character development while being kept at arm's length by the constant self-reflexivity and role changes. Early in the performance, we are told the audience "has gone home," and at the end, the actors abruptly leave the stage, leaving us full of questions.

Despite its ostensible concern with the mechanisms of hypnotism and the human capacity for self-deception, it is also, and perhaps more so, a play about belief and obedience. The melancholy events of the story are never allowed to take control of our emotions, and the constant reminders that it is merely a performance relieve us from the psychological drama.

In an interview with London's *Guardian* newspaper, Crouch explained how he came up with the idea for the play. He said his first step was to think of a title. He decided to call this approach to play-writing "Self Mastery Through Conscious Autosuggestion." Based on the philosophy of the French physician Emile Coué, it involves the mantra that "every one of our thoughts, good or bad, becomes concrete, materializes, and becomes, in short, a reality." Say you're healthy, and you will be. Say you're Hamlet, and who's to say you're not? Say you're going to write a play, and you will.

Crouch decided his play would be about a man who thinks he's turned a tree into something else: his daughter, who has been killed by a car. He then asked Andy Smith, a poet and performance artist known as "a smith," to act in his unwritten play, but he suggested something else. "Why don't you get a different actor to play the father each time? Bloody hell, a smith!"

Despite the incorporation of an actor working "cold," Crouch's masterminding serves to create a balanced and delicately orchestrated piece of theatre that is highly enjoyable, if somewhat disheartening in its portrayal of our ability for deception.

14/7 fusion of horns, strings and tablas

by Brianna Sloan

This year's composers' workshop was a whirlwind of scores, concertos, vignettes, tablas and nervous composers.

The Victoria Symphony swarmed Alix Goolden Hall on Feb. 2 to perform and record five composers' new works.

The workshop, put on by the Victoria Symphony, gives composers the chance to listen to their pieces live and direct the way they're performed.

It's a relaxed environment for the symphony to be introduced to new music that's sometimes far from its usual style and for composers to hear what could be altered or rearranged in their compositions. An archival-quality recording is also given to the composers.

The pieces this year included classic and conventional symphony music and interesting modern compositions.

T. Benton Roark debuted his piece "The Arcturus Agora," an explosive composition that purposely brings images of the heavens and stars to mind.

Accomplished composer Elizabeth Knudson presented "A Travers la mer," loosely based on the idea of Jacques Cartier's first ocean voyage to Canada in 1534. It is a flowing, trance-like 14-minute piece.

The Victoria Symphony's own principal clarinetist, Keith MacLeod, has been dabbling in the art of composition and bravely presented his "Vignette #1" to his peers. This three-minute flash of chamber-like music is straightforward, easy to listen to and a dazzling piece of commercial orchestration.

The workshop finished with Anna Hostman's "Light Unfolding," but the full effect of this composition was lost on the audience because it is a video and orchestra collaboration. Hostman is the symphony's co-composer in residence.

The clear standout composition on Friday was Niel Golden's "Kusumamaya." Only the first movement was played—the other two have yet to be written, and Golden is looking forward to working on the next two movements.

"Kusumamaya" means "consisting of flowers" in Sanskrit, and the first movement, in English, is called "Lotus."

"It's a bit of a challenge for [the symphony] to do this beat," said Tania Miller, the symphony's director. "Lotus" is written in the very unusual time signature of 14/7.

"Kusumamaya" is challenging in more than just time signature—it also has a tabla feature culminating in a short solo at the end of the movement.

"Tablas are extremely popular and versatile drums," wrote Golden in the program notes. They are used to accompany classical [Indian] vocal, instrumental and dance music."

Golden is not only the composer of "Kusumamaya"—he is also the tabla soloist and has been playing the tabla for 28 years. Golden has performed and toured with several big names, including Xavier Rudd and Harry Manx on their tour together last year in Australia.

Golden admitted that being the soloist made it "hard to focus on the overall effect of the music," but there are not a lot of tabla gurus who can be called upon to play a challenging concerto and solo in Victoria—or in Canada, for that matter.

Golden said that "Kusumamaya" was originally written for small ensembles featuring the tablas but has been arranged for symphony "approached from Indian classical style," creating a unique East-meets-West fusion. The repeating melody, intricate rhythms and unique percussion sound give the composition an Indian base, while the tonal quality from the strings and horns gives birth to a new sound entirely.

The composers' workshop is great for composers like Golden who are trying very new styles of writing and are not sure what the results will be like live.

"This is a bit of an experiment," he said.

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Whiskey business

by Sam VanSchie

"He's late, but you can't miss him—he's a bald guy with an accordion," said Chris Logan, owner of Logan's Pub, where Geoff Berner agreed to meet for an interview before his show on Feb. 3.

When the Vancouver-based singer/songwriter strolled in an hour later, his first concern was the dance floor.

"Maybe we should fill it with chairs," Berner suggested modestly. "I'm playing alone tonight and people will want to sit."

Berner gained a cult following when his album *Whiskey Rabbi* was released in 2005, giving a new name to Canadian drinking music. And the bar filled quickly even before the show started.

Recently back from a European tour, Berner is promoting his third independent full-length CD, *Wedding Dance of the Widow Bride*, released in Canada on Feb. 6. His new songs dare to mix traditional Jewish wedding music with unwholesome lyrics that are sure to amuse and offend.

"From a punk-rock perspective, if there is something people dislike, it must be cool," said Berner.

This logic and a little liquor is also what led him to switch his instrument of choice from piano to accordion in the '90s.

"I was drunk at a party complaining about how guitar players can just stand and busk on the street," said Berner. When he mentioned the accordion, a friend gave him one from his attic, which Berner used until it was stolen from his car in Vancouver.

While most of Berner's stories began or ended with alcohol, he drank only a single pint of Longboat Double Chocolate Porter before his set.

"Geoff doesn't drink as much before the show as he used to," commented singer/songwriter Kris Demeanor, who opened the show playing the kazoo before picking up his guitar for a side-splitting 30 minutes of lyric-heavy indie-folk songs covering topics from elephants to girl talk.

When Berner took over the stage, it was, understandably, with a glass of whiskey in hand.

The dance floor was packed with many who sang along with his songs and a few who waltzed near the stage.

His short set included songs from all of his CDs and some that are unreleased. Though the audience shouted for more, he played only one encore before stepping offstage to join the crowd.

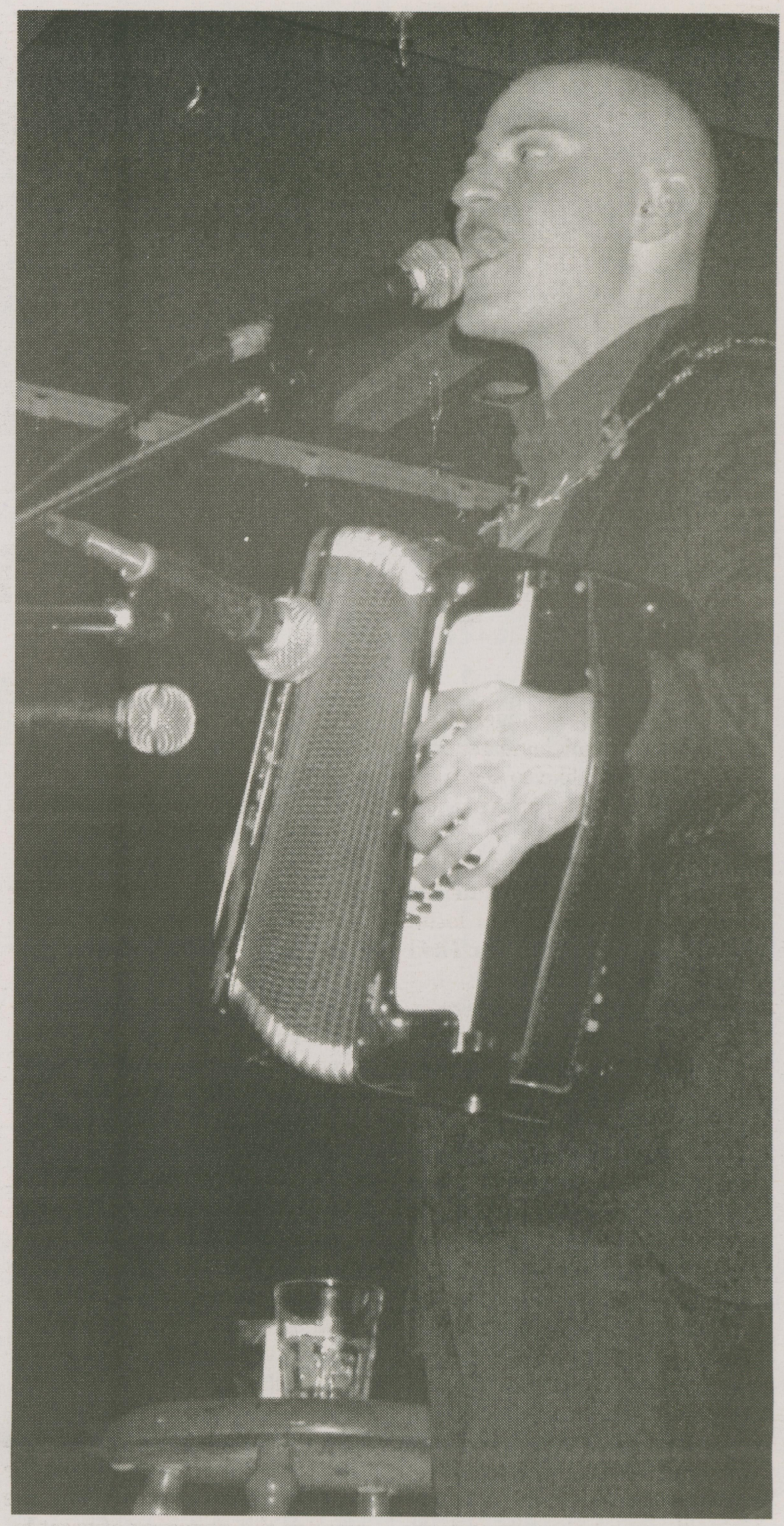
While he had mentioned its importance to his career earlier, Berner left unsung his breakout single, "Light Enough to Travel." The song was made popular after it was covered by the Vancouver folk trio The Be Good Tanyas.

"I used to call venues and tell the owners I wrote that song," confessed Berner. "Their covering that song was my ticket to fame."

Now, Berner has no problem finding places to play or people to cram into clubs internationally. He has been asked to play at weddings, which he sees as a possibility though he's already booked for tours until July.

And he's happy with his unlikely success.

"The general populous is bigoted against accordion," Berner claimed, "I'll show them all!"



SAM VANSHIE PHOTO

Geoff Berner switched from piano to portable squeezebox.

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TOP TEN

FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 5TH

* means Canadian artist. † means local artist.

1. VARIOUS †
   Aaargh Annual: Year Two (Aaargh)
2. OF MONTREAL
   Hissing Fauna, Are You The Destroyer? (Polyvinyl)
3. DEERHOOF
   Friend Opportunity (Kill Rock Stars)
4. BEIRUT
   Lon Gisland EP (Ba Da Bing!)
5. HELLA
   There's No 666 In Outer Space (Ipecac)
6. JULIE DOIRON *
   Woke Myself Up (Endearing)
7. VARIOUS
   8-Bit Operators: The Music Of Kraftwerk (Astralwerks)
8. MENOMENA
   Friend and Foe (Barsuk)
9. BUSDRIVER
   RoadKillOvercoat (Epitaph)
10. VIETNAM
    Vietnam (Kemado)

Hear the weekly top ten on Charts and Graphs every Thursday at 3:00 PM on CFUV 101.9FM.

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SOCC collective

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH @ 2:30 PM in the SOCC office, SUB B020

We will be electing a SOCC Representative to the UVSS Board of Directors
Nominations are open to all students of colour

Contact 472.4697 or socc@uvss.uvic.ca for more information

PROVIDED PHOTO

The boys from Ten Second Epic recently signed to Black Box Recordings.

Making it to the majors

by Brandon DeLyzer

Andrew Usenik, lead singer of Edmonton's pop-punk band Ten Second Epic, would like to see more independent bands get the recognition they deserve.

"Yeah," chirps drummer Patrick Birtles, "and I'd like to hear less about Iraq and the Oilers losing and hear more about the Rosie and Trump scandal too."

Before their show at Vertigo on Feb. 3rd, Usenik and Birtles are excited to be playing with Open, Parachute! and Theset, two of Vancouver Island's independent bands that deserve the recognition.

Ten Second Epic recently signed to Black Box Recordings, an affiliate of Universal, and recorded *Count Yourself In* with producing legend GGGarth Richardson, but the band members still consider themselves low on the totem pole. They're right: if you take a look at Universal's artist list, you'll see how for every signed band you know, there are five that you don't.

You can hear the difference between the quintet's independently produced first album, *One More For the Road*, and GGGarth's *Count Yourself In*. The omniscient view of a professional producer—someone who is brought in later in the creative process to work on a band's sound—is something that a lot of independent bands lack and need to get to that next level.

"You walk into GGGarth's house, and there's gold records everywhere," says Birtles.

"Platinum, most of them were platinum," corrects Usenik.

"Right," says Birtles. "So the intimidation factor is so high, and you go in and you're shy to play for this guy, but he lets you have your own say. He can be a little condescending at times. He'll say, 'I guess I won't be hanging this one on my wall,' and you're like, 'Ugh, fine GGGarth!' So he pushes you in the right direction because sometimes you can't step back from the songs you've been playing for years."

To get signed to Black Box Recordings, Ten Second Epic had to prove they had a fresh approach and loyal fan base.

"We rely on our home fanbase still," says Birtles. "Small towns are extremely important too, because they usually only get one good show every few months, so they enjoy it more. They're the fans who request our songs on MTV."

Usenik adds, "I think major cities like Vancouver and Toronto are spoiled because they get major-label bands coming through all the time, but places like Edmonton and Victoria miss out a lot of the time on shows like that, and the result is the spawning of great local bands to fill that gap."

The band also picked up a new member during the six weeks of recording—a stray cat named Boots.

"We saw this cute cuddly cat, so we decided to bring it in as our pet," says Usenik with a smile. One night, the guys had a little too much to drink, and fell asleep before letting the cat out. "So we discovered the next morning that Boots had climbed onto the sink, knocked Sandy's toothbrush into the bottom of the sink and proceeded to defecate all over it."

Ten Second Epic may have a professional album now, but they still played like an independent band on Saturday. They didn't rely on an expensive light show to woo the audience, and their performance felt personal and unscripted. Usenik chatted with the crowd between every song, barely able to catch his breath from singing so hard. They fit right in with Open, Parachute! and Theset, who don't sound far off from signing a deal like Ten Second Epic's.

Open, Parachute! has reinvented the *At The Drive-In* sound in a melodic new way. The masters of the breakdown hail from Nanaimo, but they have a dedicated fanbase here in Victoria. Most of the audience sang along with lead singer Chris Arruda's catchy lyrics.

"What if art and credit cards won't save us," sang Arruda before launching into the spacey chorus.

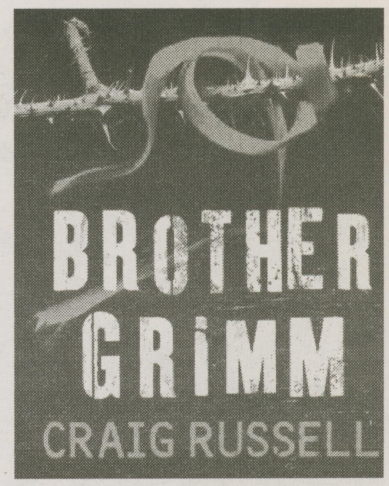
Theset is what many consider as Victoria's new Hot Hot Heat. Although the quintet is skilled in all areas of musicianship, it's Martin MacPhall's signature vocal style that makes them stand out. MacPhall runs his microphone through seven different vocal pedals, including his favourite, the Line 6 Echo Park, and often launches into frantic vocal noise solos.

"We love playing with bands like this," said Usenik, about Open, Parachute! and Theset. "They're ready to break through soon and have a huge weight lifted off their shoulders."

A grim read

Brother Grimm
Craig Russell
McArthur & Company

by Mark Seneviratne



Horror fans and mystery lovers will find something to like in this complex and relentless police procedural.

Into an over-saturated market of detective novels, with such heavyweights as James Lee Burke, Michael Connelly and Robert Crais, comes a new mystery author showcasing a unique character—a German detective working in modern-day Hamburg whose sleuthing winds down roads replete with new twists on old tales.

The novel, *Brother Grimm*—penned by Craig Russell, a Scottish-German author—follows the trail of grisly murders committed by a man obsessed with fairy tales who uses them as inspiration for his killings. The murders reference fables, such as Hansel and Gretel, and obscure ones, such as the Changelings, in unique and gruesome ways, including one woman who stands in for the witch character and is baked alive.

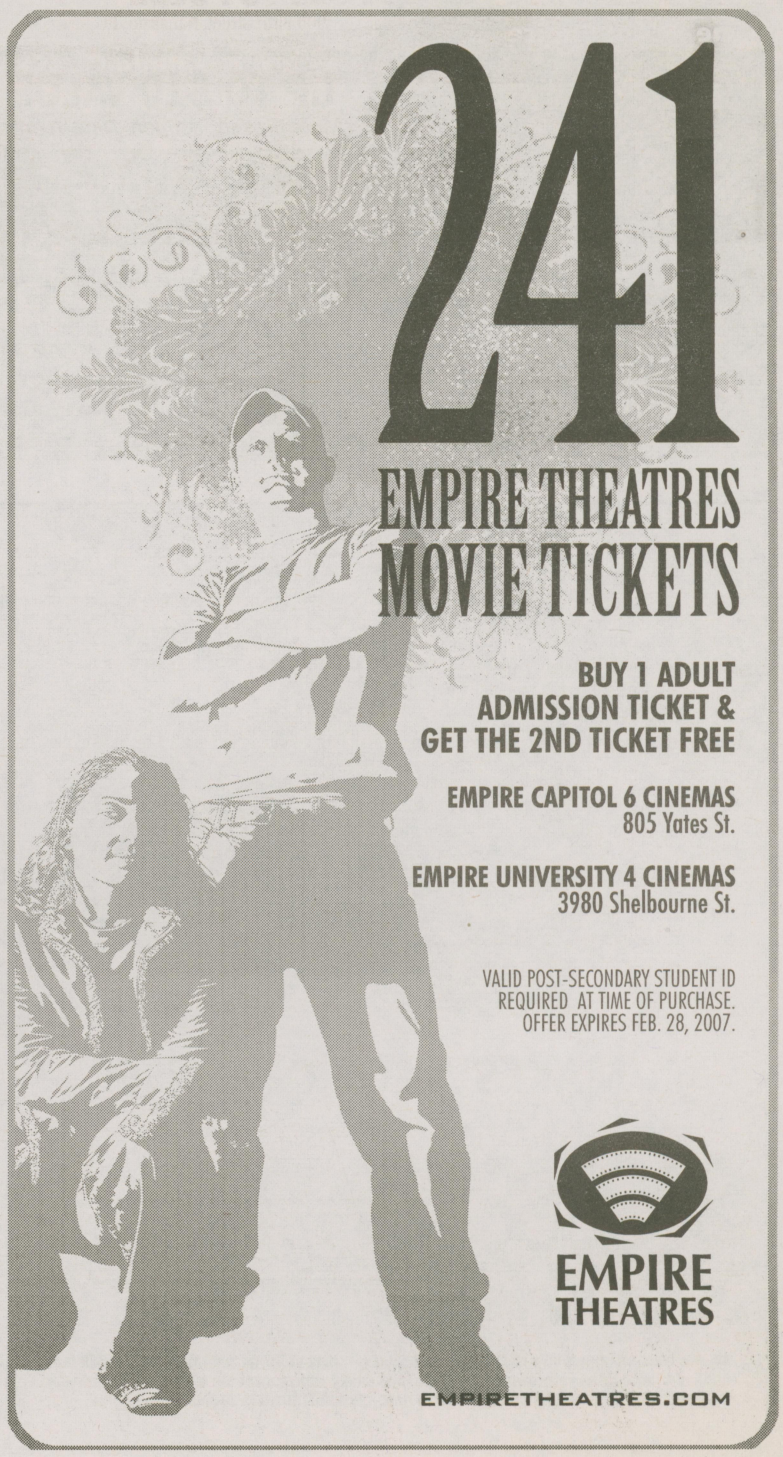
Russell's protagonist, Jan Fable, is a chief inspector in his late 30s working in the Hamburg Murder Squad. Compared to other popular detectives, Fable is not as intense as Michael Connelly's Harry Bosch nor as brooding as James Lee Burke's Dave Robicheaux, but more a happy medium. He's good-natured and idealistic, displays genuine empathy for victims and harbours suspicion of the militarizing of his police department.

Russell's strength is shown through his descriptions of Hamburg, a highly urbanized and industrialized city in northern Germany that faces the Blankenese Sea. His writing style is clean and flowing, peppered with dialogue that's not entirely sharp but is sufficient nonetheless.

But what might irk some readers is the frequently used German police terminology without a glossary. Oddly, definitions were provided in Russell's previous book, *Blood Eagle*. One of the terms used is, *Mordkommission*, which translates roughly as "homicide division."

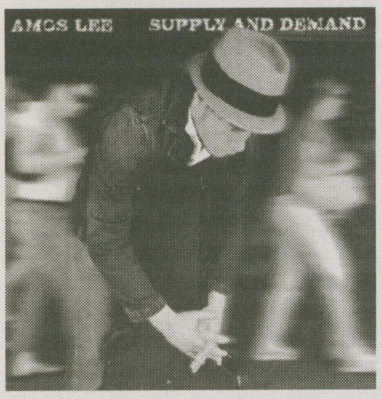
Russell's second- and third-tier characters in *Brother Grimm* are interestingly layered with the requisite back stories, conflicts and personalities, out of which the punk-like, Jewish-German junior officer shines through.

Centre stage is reserved for the protagonist, Jan Fable, who is the most endearing and clearly defined character. Overall, the book is an entertaining diversion and a fast read. The high point of the book lies in the fact that one can glean informative and enlightening German literary history and bask in the culture and people of Hamburg.



CD REVIEWS | AMOS LEE, ARCHITECT, AIR

Architect builds on Air to meet Demand



Amos Lee
Supply and Demand
EMI

by Laurie Graham

Okay, picture the end of a movie, where the hero(ine) tugs out a smile that says, "Geez, I didn't know it before, but I'm really gonna miss this place," then proceeds to drive off into the sunset in that scrappy yet durable convertible car. That's sort of what Amos Lee's *Supply and Demand* feels like. And that's why you could either love it or hate it. Take your pick—it don't matter none to me, not after listening to this dude sing.

Lee is a folkie. You can hear it in his timbre, in how he strums his guitar, in his chord progressions. His voice is sweet as the blessed sun after a long bout of grey. He threads elements of soul, gospel and blues through lyrics that betray an easy wisdom and an honesty that may make you wonder if this Philly native is for real.

He wrote the bulk of the songs on *Supply and Demand* on the road, and that sense of movement and anchorlessness serves this album well. Each song feels like emerging from a long dark tunnel, still full of self-doubt but just happy to not be in that damn tunnel anymore. Hence, there's a tremendous amount of strength behind the music in Lee's sophomore album.

Lee weaves a spell; that much is certain. Geez, I didn't know it before, but I'm really gonna miss this place.

Architect
All Is Not Lost
Black Market Activities

by David William Carey

At first, Architect seems like just another hardcore metal band—spikes, skulls, thrashing guitars, destructive guitar licks, amplified screaming and explosions abound—but there's so much more at play in their first album.

Risen from the ashes of two disbanded groups, World As A Virus and Found Dead Hanging, Thomas Calandra, James Bailey, Keith Allen, Timothy Seib, Anthony Michel and Shaun Purcell have created 11 tracks of powerful, purposeful gut-shredding distortion.

This album is similar to those of a lot of metal bands but has wide-sweeping instrumentals and crisp, pulverizing guitar licks as clean as a box cutter to the jugular that take you to a place filled with intense paranoia, tingling with oncoming dread.

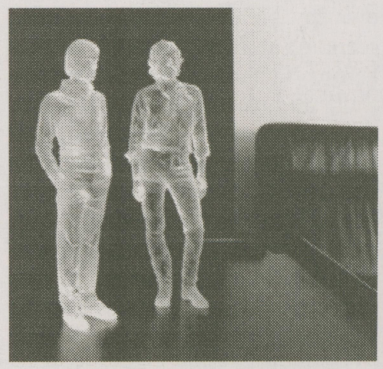
There's a political side to Architect you may not expect from a metal band—their liner notes are loaded with Sept. 11 conspiracy theories and "impeach Bush" banners. Their MySpace page has a photo of Hunter S. Thompson shooting a typewriter and a poster for the Anti-Haircore Movement with profiles of the My Chemical Romance members' haircuts.

The album is premeditated brutality, but it is also dedicated to the memory of World As A Virus vocalist Shaun Luu, who passed away from brain cancer in 2005. *All Is Not Lost* was produced to the max, giving this album a thriving energy. It also gives the apocalyptic themes a positive spin.

"The Giving Tree" has an almost timeless drone: "Here we are again to celebrate the one we lost. His memory lives on forever and always in us. Here we are again to celebrate the one we love. Scream our throats red while we sing this song."

The track that sticks out the most is "Broke Dick Dog," with the ending chorus chanting, "You are not going to make it." It gives a powerful groove to the song as dissonant chords strum along with echoes of squealing harmonies.

The cover art is straightforward and clean—a good use of design that takes a step back from the weight of the album. There are no photos of the band, which is good because metal dudes are usually ugly.



Air
Pocket Symphony
Astralwerks

by Andrew Tobin

Upbeat and danceable electronic music is probably the biggest fad in the music industry right now next to emo. The French techno duo Air's fourth full-length album, *Pocket Symphony*, bucks that trend in favour of a colourful, soothing sound that they've covered extensively in past works without ignoring their own electro/pop flavours.

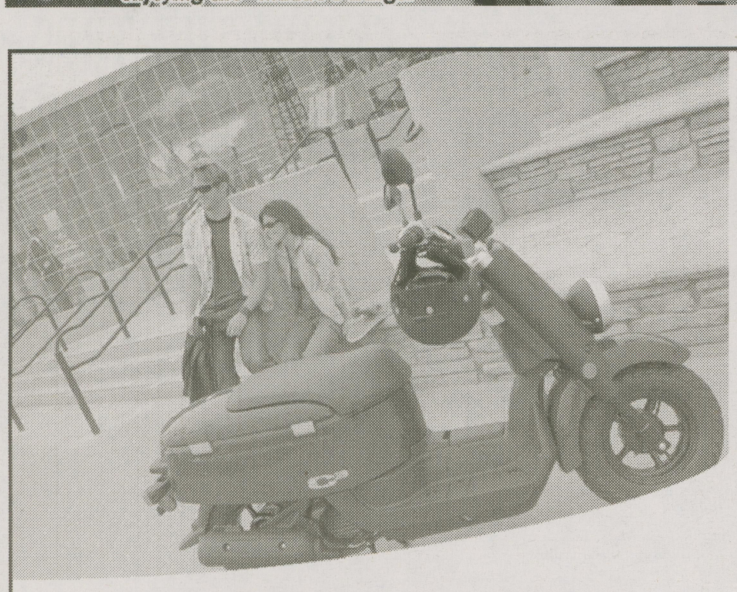
"Space Maker" opens to the rhythm of woodblocks and acoustic guitar, increasing layers of rhythm and harmony, and the usual awesome basslines expected of Air since "La Femme D'argent." As one of the few upbeat songs on *Symphony*, it really pulls you in.

"Once Upon A Time" features some Corgan-style lyrics about young love and some of the strongest drums on the album. Asiatic strings and Lou Reed-esque vocals both figure on the downbeat "One Hell of a Party." "Napalm Love" again recites romantic verses over moody, harmonic music.

Following a triplet of vocal tracks, "Mayfair Song" returns to instrumentalism, leaving the beautiful soundscapes to exist as the centrepiece. As with all Air instrumentals, it sounds like a film score.

"Mer du Japon" then kicks it up a notch, introducing a louder rock beat and brighter sound while still maintaining the heavily sustained synths, reverbed piano, whispery vocals and lofty harmonics. The record's final third doesn't veer from the style set by the rest of the songs.

Symphony features minimal rhythm—on some songs, as little as a single kick drum—and a moody atmosphere. The coherence is a huge improvement over Air's previous album, *Talkie Walkie*. The melodies, while not immediately memorable, strike a perfect balance between simplicity and complexity and are all lovely. The vocals are no longer drowned in Vocoder effects; the instruments are no longer electrified; this is Air's most natural album yet, and it's clear they have decided to leave the upbeat, danceable electronic music to other bands.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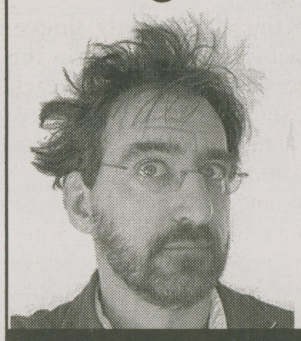

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VICTORIA INDEPENDENT FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL REVIEWS | *MONKEY WARFARE, THE PUFFY CHAIR* AND *CANDY*

Festival showcases the anarchic, awkward and addictive

Monkey Warfare
Reginald Harkema
Palisades Pictures

by Anna Kemp

I went to see *Monkey Warfare* with an old friend who used to be involved in some fairly extreme political activism (we're not talking Molotov cocktails, but she took some risks) and her partner, a serious bicycle enthusiast. I couldn't have picked better dates for this flick.

In *Monkey Warfare*, two 30-something anarchists, Dan (Don McKellar) and Linda (Tracy Wright), live under the radar in Toronto's Parkdale neighbourhood. They make their living by finding things in garage sales and piles of curbside garbage and reselling them on eBay.

As the movie progresses, it becomes apparent that Dan and Linda, both heavy pot smokers, are seriously paranoid. Nobody knows where they live, they don't have a phone and they buy everything in cash, but it's not clear what they are afraid of.

When their dealer gets busted, Dan and Linda start buying pot from a beautiful girl in her 20s named Susan (Nadia Litz). Dan is attracted to Susan, and she is impressed and affected by the literature, music and ideas he shares with her in his bid to win her affections.

Susan becomes an activist, and as she grows increasingly militant, the film builds subtly to an emotional climax in which Dan and Linda reveal to her the reasons for their underground existence.

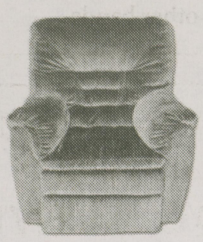
While McKellar is excellent as usual, Wright, who received much recognition for her role in *Me and You and Everyone We Know* (2005), really shines. Although for most of the movie Linda holds everything bottled up inside, Wright skilfully shows us what she is thinking. When Linda explodes, it is authentic and moving.

In *Monkey Warfare*, Harkema pays tribute to French New Wave filmmaker Jean-Luc Godard, using jump cuts, on-screen text and agitprop slogans. An excellent soundtrack adds to the ambience of the movie, mixing old classics like Leonard Cohen and the Fugs with newer indie groups such as The Pink Mountaintops.

Perhaps the best thing about the movie, and I think all three of us agreed, was the loving portrayal of bike riding. Although I can't condone Dan's "liberating" of supposedly abandoned locked bicycles, I love to see bicycles on the big screen.

When the movie finished, we hopped on our bicycles and rode off to the bar, where we debated for an hour about activism, militancy, youth and aging.

Great acting, great music and plenty to talk about afterwards—that's exactly what I look for in a movie.



The Puffy Chair
Jay Duplass
Roadside Attractions

by Anna Kemp

Have you ever lived with a couple? Did you find yourself politely trying not to notice as they alternately picked each other apart and sickeningly made up again?

That pretty much describes the experience of watching *The Puffy Chair*, the first feature film by fraternal filmmakers Mark and Jay Duplass, who hail from Austin.

The Puffy Chair gives you front row seats to the dysfunctional relationship of Josh, a failed NYC rock musician (Mark Duplass), and Emily, his long-term girlfriend (Kathryn Aselton). In a dark comic take on the road-trip movie, we witness the unravelling of Josh and Emily's relationship as the 20-something pair travels in Josh's van from New York to his parents' house in Atlanta. Along the way they pick up Rhett (Rhett Wilkins), Josh's chocolate-eyed pseudo-hippie brother, and a "puffy chair" that Josh had bought online as a birthday gift for his father.

Unfortunately, the chair, like many things in Josh's life, doesn't live up to Josh's expectations. After various delays and a fiasco involving a bonfire in a parking lot, the three make it to Atlanta, but sans chair and ultimately, sans relationship.

While the plot is fairly simple, the movie's real depth lies in the characters' relationships with each other. The communication between them is loaded with subtext. Duplass and Aselton perfectly capture the language of couples who have been together a long time. But they are actually a couple in real life, so that kind of explains it.

Shot on video and cleverly edited to appear unedited, *The Puffy Chair* feels more like a home movie. Much of the shooting is handheld, and fast zooms often leave the screen blurry as the camera struggles to refocus.

The Puffy Chair would be impossible to watch without its humour. The combination of extreme close-ups on people's faces, awkward silences and underlying tensions made me feel incredibly claustrophobic for most of its duration. Thankfully, the funny scenes provided real relief.

My one major criticism is that Emily's character didn't have as much depth as Josh's did. For a movie that focuses on gender relationships, *The Puffy Chair* could have done more than portray Emily as beautiful and desperately needy.

The Puffy Chair is definitely worth watching, but I'm warning you, it's not a comfortable ride. And unless you are trying to engineer a breakup, I don't suggest bringing a date.

Candy
Neil Armfield
Dendy Films

by Gabriella Agueci

Neil Armfield's film *Candy* immediately drags the viewer into the tormented lives of two drug addicts.

Falling in love in fast-forward, Dan (Heath Ledger), a struggling poet, introduces Candy (Abbie Cornish), an aspiring artist, to his heroin-laced lifestyle. The two immerse themselves in a destructive pattern of addiction—to each other and to the drug.

The movie is based on *Candy: A Novel of Love and Addiction* written by Luke Davies.

Candy is categorized into three chapters, beginning with "Heaven," a blur of infatuation, highs and ardent lovemaking. This portion is followed by "Earth," where the two are exposed to reality, pain, overdue rent and four caustic days of detox. It's the only period in the movie where their junkie lifestyle takes a negative toll on their angelic features. The third chapter is labelled "Hell," and, after their tormented stay in "Earth," this chapter is expected.

Candy's mother, reminiscent of a Stepford wife, blames Dan for luring her daughter into a web of drugs and for destroying her family.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Aspiring artist Candy descends from flowers to smack.

The premise of Dan as the stereotypical "bad boy" and Candy as the innocent bystander is an almost annoying constant throughout the entire movie. Dan introduces this idea in the first 10 minutes, when he states, "I wasn't trying to wreck Candy's life; I was trying to make mine better."

Dan's contentment and hopelessness and Candy's position of being perturbed and wanting something better is a reoccurring theme that surfaces at points of high tension.

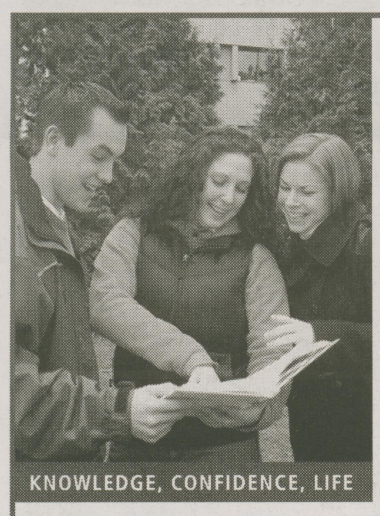
The movie begins with a lighthearted amusement park scene with Dan and Candy, leaving the audience completely unprepared for what comes next.

The sporadic intervals of narration by Ledger bridge the gap between his character and the audience. The only time Cornish narrates is at a point of complete self-destruction.

The movie is set in dull-coloured, dingy apartments that reflect the characters' condition perfectly.

Do not let the title fool you—there is nothing sweet about this movie, except maybe the passion shared between Dan and Candy.

Although almost too much to handle at times, *Candy* is definitely worth the heartache to watch—if not for Ledger, then just for the experience.



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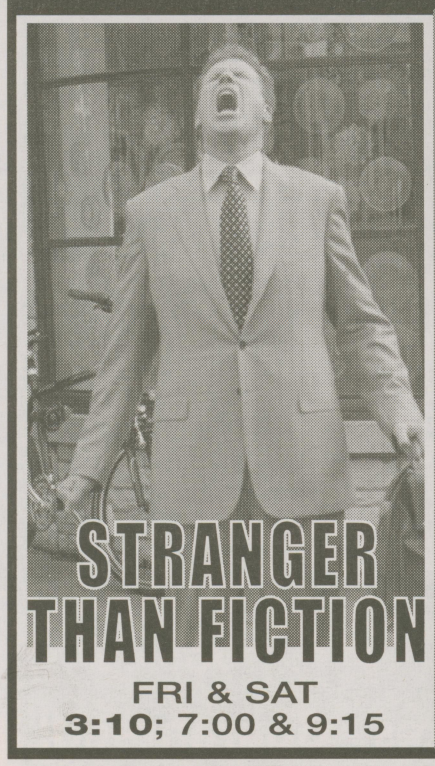
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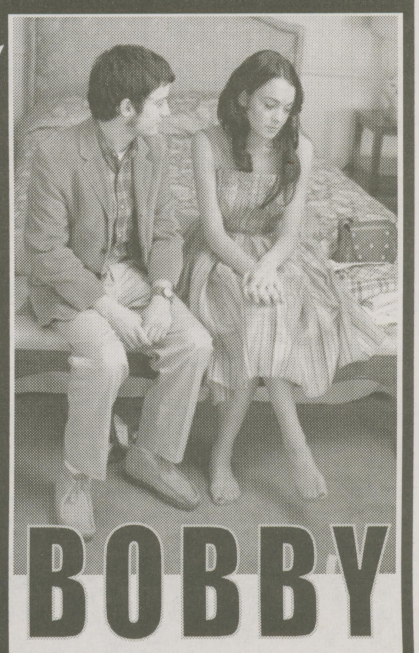
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Hard-working Vikes beat Kamloops

by Micah Luxen

BRYN TASSELL PHOTO

The Vikes, leading by Jaimie Coulter's two tries (far right), prepare for a scrum against Kamloops.

The Vikes women's rugby team took an unlikely win on Feb. 3.

Defeating the Kamloops Raiders by a score of 15-5 at UVic's Wallace Field, the Vikes' hard work in the rain paid off despite their going up against a better team.

"They're really more skilled than us, but we outworked them," said Vike Jill Carruthers.

The Vikes last played the Raiders in 2005 when they beat them by a score of 29-22.

For the majority of the game, the Raiders kept the ball in the Vikes' end. Their passes were clean and their players were open, but they were no match for the Vikes' defence, which was ready to stop the opposition from taking the ball too far.

The Vikes also managed to capitalize on their few scoring chances.

"The few times we got it in their end, we scored," said coach David Graham.

"They had a territorial advantage and it was a tough competition," said Graham. "We won on defence, and it was very good tackling today."

The Vikes were aggressive and appeared daunting in their mud-smeared uniforms. Frequent dog piles of over-eager Vikes slowed down the opposition.

The Raiders had possession more often, not because they had more energy, but simply because of the bounce of the ball.

"At other times, we lacked the aggression to win the ball because they wanted it more than we did," said Graham.

Luck took the Vikes further in the game than most of the players realized. Jaimie Coulter, who only had one try this season heading into the match, scored two of the Vikes' three tries.

"I guess I was just at the right spot at the right time," said Coulter, and it was a good thing she showed up.

"I wasn't even supposed to be here today," said Coulter. "I was at work, and I decided I didn't want to be at work anymore, so I left."

Vike Tanya Hamilton scored the third try in the dying minutes of the first half.

The coach praised his team's determination and encouraged the players to make a continuous effort to learn what to do under extreme pressure from well-drilled teams.

"Nobody hung their head today," Graham said.

The Vikes play their next three games on the road before returning to Wallace Field against the Ravens on March 10.

UVic Scoreboard!

Women's field hockey

Jan. 20 UBC 71 UVic 58
Jan. 19 UBC 71 UVic 56

Women's basketball

Feb. 3 Alberta 75 UVic 55
Feb. 2 Sask. 72 UVic 63

Men's basketball

Feb. 3 UVic 83 Alberta 70
Feb. 2 UVic 79 Sask. 67

Men's ice hockey

Feb. 3 UVic 10 SFU 2
Feb. 2 UVic 6 SFU 6

Women's rugby

Feb. 3 UVic 15 Kamloops 5

Co-ed water polo

Feb. 4 Seattle 10 UVic 7
Feb. 3 Portland 19 UVic 6
Feb. 3 S. Francisco 15 UVic 2
Feb. 2 Washington 14 UVic 7

JOCK TALK

"I was at work, and I decided I didn't want to be at work anymore, so I left."

- Vikes rugby player Jaimie Coulter, explaining her decision to show up and score two tries

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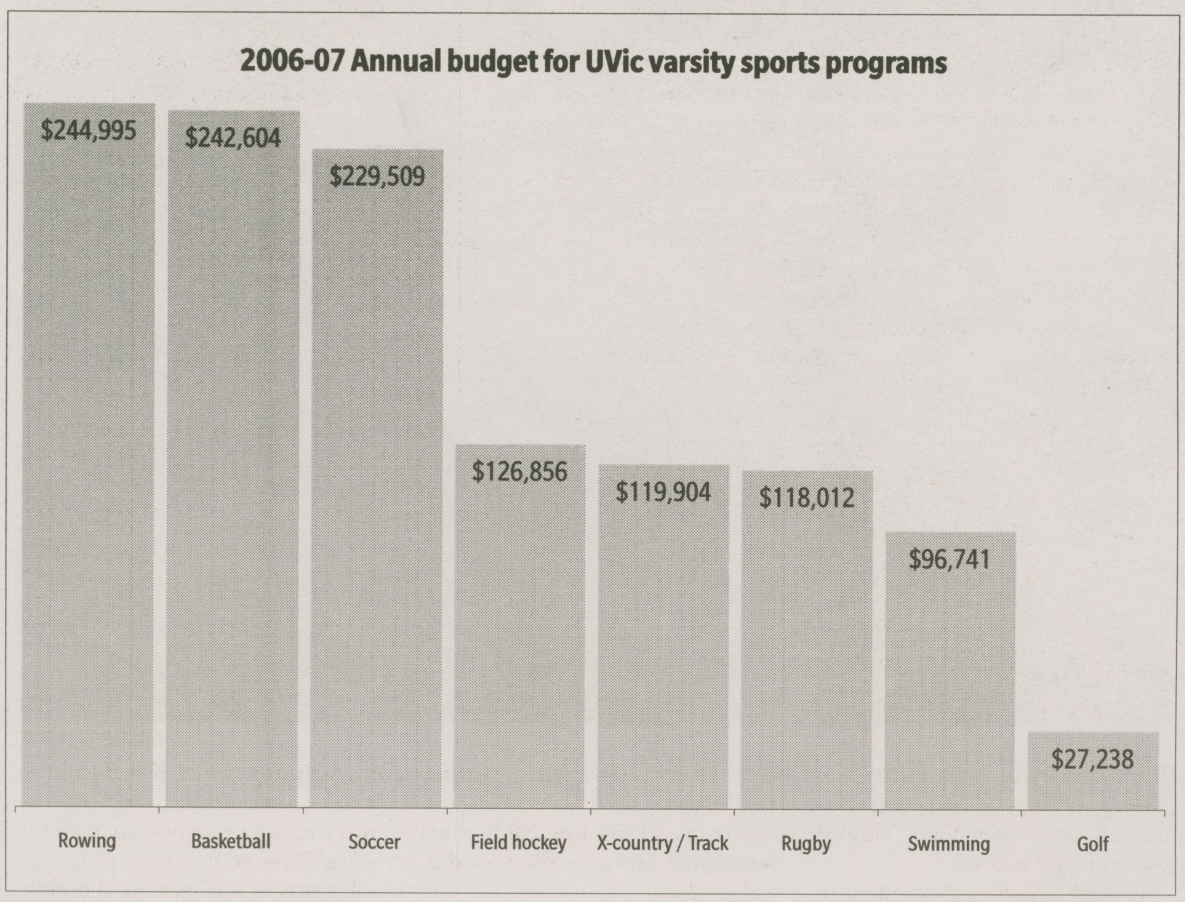
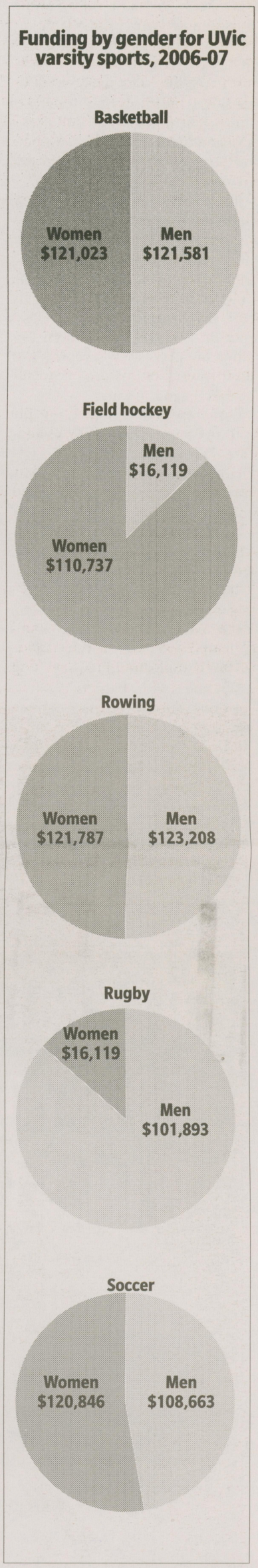
UVic sports teams struggle for funding

Many student athletes forced to fundraise and pay hundreds of dollars to represent university at competitions

by David Karp



DAVID KARP AND STEVE MASUCH GRAPHICS



Ian Cruickshank has a large bruise on his arm, which he admits still hurts. The Vikes field hockey goalie received it when he stopped a shot days before.

"It's the only part on my body where I don't have padding," said Cruickshank, whose bruise lies between the area protected by his glove and his lacrosse elbow pad.

Cruickshank uses a mix of lacrosse and ice hockey gear and hand-me-downs from teammate Jonathan Plumbley.

A top-of-the-line field hockey elbow pad would have covered the area where Cruickshank was bruised, but it's not something the team's $16,119 annual budget can afford.

Proper goalie gear is not something Cruickshank can afford either.

"I'd have to sell myself and my soul," he said. According to Cruickshank, most of the team's budget is spent on travel. Players pay roughly $200 in fees, which buys them a track suit, among other things. They must buy their own sticks. Cruickshank just forked over $330 for new kickers, protective shoes for his feet.

Things aren't much better on the women's field hockey team, which has more than $110,000 to work with.

However, that budget includes the salary of women's coach Lynne Beecroft, who works full time. Men's field hockey coach Alan Williams is paid an honorarium for his part-time coaching.

And while the men have lower travel costs because they only go as far as Vancouver and don't stay overnight, the women's team often has to fly and stay in hotels.

In fact, the women's budget is only enough for the first semester and doesn't cover the indoor tournaments the team plays in the spring.

According to Beecroft, her players paid $550 this year, which includes sticks, shoes, a track suit and a weight-room pass. But that's offset by a $750 athlete assistance grant for each player.

Many UVic players also compete for the national team.

"We had six kids play in the Junior World Cup, and I think it cost them $2,500 [each] to go to Chile to play," said Beecroft.

"I've jokingly said that sticks cost $200, shoes or turf boots cost $75, playing for the Vikes is priceless," said Beecroft.

UVic separates their varsity teams into two classes, Level I and Level II. Level I sports get a full-time coach and "a full competitive operational budget," according to Athletics and Recreation Director Clint Hamilton.

Level II sports receive an honorarium for their coach and "what resources operationally we can [provide]," said Hamilton.

"UVic has a strong philosophy that what sports we're going to be [Level I] in, we want to be a leading, nationally competitive program," he said.

Hamilton added the history of a particular sport at UVic plays an important role in determining a sport's funding level. For instance, the men's rugby program receives six times more funding than women's rugby.

"You can look at things like the history of the men's rugby program," said Hamilton. "Women's rugby is still in a lot of ways ... a fairly new sport."

The decision for what teams get Level I or II funding "is made by the president with the advice of the President's Advisory Committee on Athletics and Recreation," states UVic Policy 1735. University President David Turpin would not comment on the policy.

The committee that's supposed to advise the president doesn't exist right now.

"The advisory committee was never that functional and I don't have great plans for its revival," wrote David Clode, UVic's executive director of student and ancillary services, in an e-mail.

In 1998, the university demoted volleyball from Level I to Level II because of funding cuts, while introducing women's rugby and men's field hockey as Level II sports. Volleyball was dropped entirely in 2003.

Right now, rowing gets more funding than any other UVic sport. The men's and women's programs were allocated a combined $244,995 in funding this year. That doesn't include the thousands of dollars the teams fundraise each year from hosting races.

LEVEL I SPORTS

- Basketball
- Cross-country/Track
- Rowing
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Women's field hockey
- Men's rugby

LEVEL II SPORTS

- Golf
- Men's field hockey
- Women's rugby

"To row, you need a boat. An eight-person boat, a shell, is right around $40,000," explained Hamilton. "To play basketball, you've got shoes, you've got basketballs and you've got jerseys. It doesn't surprise me that rowing's our most expensive sport."

Although the budget sends the team to the Brown Cup and the Canadian University Rowing Championships, UVic's roughly 75 rowers still need to pitch in for certain races.

"When we go to Boston, that's a very expensive trip, and there's an assessment made against each athlete who goes," said Crawley. He estimates rowers who make the annual trip pay about a third of their costs.

"They're certainly not living high off the hog, I'll tell you that," said Crawley. "It's usually four to a room."

Then there are sports clubs such as the UVic men's ice hockey team. The squad competes in the B.C. Intercollegiate Hockey League. According to club president Rishi Mahal, the team received $1,600 this year from the university, despite having expenses of over $10,000 for the season.

On top of league fees, the team plays in the Lower Mainland and needs to pay for travel and hotels. That means UVic ice hockey players paid roughly $500 each to compete this year—not including equipment and sticks that can cost hundreds of dollars.

And the team's travel costs will skyrocket next season, when teams from Prince George, Kelowna and Kamloops will join the league.

Mahal said he thinks the lack of funding for hockey is unfair.

"We're trying to run a legitimate team ... and these guys are paying quite a bit of money to represent the school," said Mahal. "It would be nice if we could have uniforms or jerseys that are UVic colours, but we can't afford to get those.

"[Our budget] just pays for our hotel on one trip. That's it."

On the bright side, UVic's men's and women's basketball teams have most of their costs covered. Each team has their season and playoff travel and two exhibition tournaments covered.

The biggest piece of equipment players need is shoes, which they get for free through an agreement with New Balance. Track suits are covered through fundraising, and the team even had an exhibition road trip to Arizona financed by a private company.

But even in that scenario, athletes also face the costs of being students: tuiton, books and room and board.

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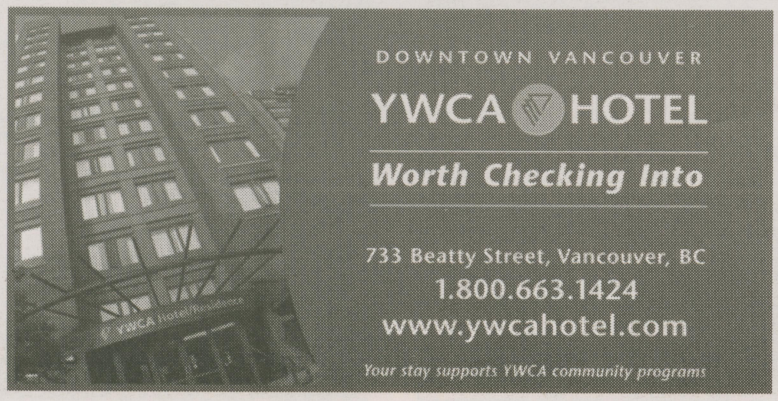

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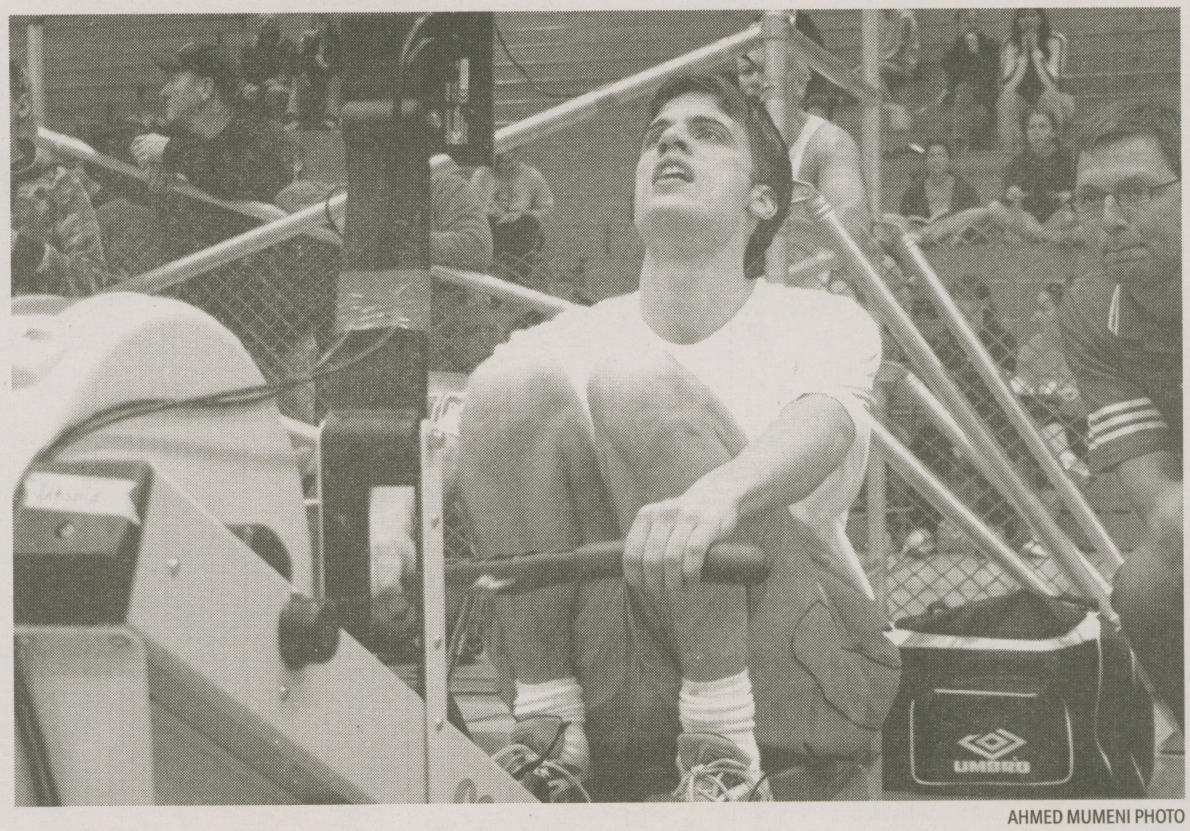
Rowing virgin takes on Monster Erg challenge

by David Karp



AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

***Martlet* sports editor David Karp (centre) competes at Monster Erg under the watchful eye of coxswain Aalbert Van Schothorst (right).**

I awoke at 7:41 a.m. on a Sunday morning to my phone ringing. There was no way I was getting out of bed to answer it.

When the phone beeped with a message, I realized that nobody in their right mind would call me so early on the weekend unless it was serious, so I staggered out of bed to check my voice mail.

It was my friend Aalbert Van Schothorst, a rowing coach. He had arranged for me to row in the novice men's lightweight category at Monster Erg, an annual event that UVic started in 1985, at 11 a.m that morning. Competitors row on a machine called an erg, and a big projection screen tracks each rower's progress as if it were a real race in the water.

I was excited about racing but a little unsure about how I would fare—I've been more sedentary than I'd like to admit these last few months, and I've never rowed before.

I called Aalbert back to tell him I'd be there. "Have a full breakfast," he advised.

"Hmm, I don't normally have a big breakfast. But I've got some cake I could eat," I replied.

"Don't have cake. You'll puke."

"Well, what should I have?"

"Oatmeal and a banana."

I don't think I've eaten oatmeal in 10 years, I don't like bananas, and our yogurt had expired over a month ago, so I stole some of my roommate's Apple Cinnamon Cheerios.

Aalbert also suggested I wear spandex pants for the race.

"I have no spandex."

"This is going to be very painful for you. I love it," Aalbert said with an evil laugh.

I met up with him about an hour before my race. He got me on an erg, showed me the proper technique and left me to practise for 20 minutes. It only took about five minutes before my shoulders started getting sore.

"Are my shoulders supposed to get sore?"

"Yes, that's perfect," Aalbert said with his signature sinister laugh.

After I got the hang of things, he told me to practise sprints.

"Do 15 strokes as hard as you can."

In my enthusiasm to go fast, I slipped off my seat and landed on the bar of the erg. This would be tougher than I thought.

Before I knew it, my 2,000-metre race was underway. I pulled hard on the handlebar of the rowing machine, trying to get myself off to a good start. Evidently it was too good a start, even though I was in last, because Aalbert told me to slow down. There were still 1,900 metres to go.

The first 500 metres went all right; after that I got really tired. Aalbert told me to concentrate on particular aspects of my stroke, and every so often he'd tell me to sprint. A couple times, he didn't say anything at all.

"Aalbert, I'm tired," I whined, hoping he'd nag at me some more. He did.

I remember breathing a sigh of relief when I reached the halfway mark. But it didn't get any easier. With 500 metres to go, I knew I would come last, but I didn't care. I kept pushing, but it was getting hard to keep up the effort.

I heard a guy behind me cheering for me. I was curious to see who it was, but I couldn't turn around (it turns out a couple of Aalbert's friends who took pity on me came to show their support).

The closer I got to the finish, the more difficult rowing became. When I finally finished to a round of sympathetic applause from the crowd, I felt relieved that the pain was over. I wanted to lie back on the rowing machine, but Aalbert pushed me forward and told me I couldn't.

I finished in 11th (last place) with a time of 8:16.8, well back of winner Killian Miller from UVic with a time of 6:39.6. But I was happy.

"The first race is always the hardest," someone advised me.

After the race, I did a few cool-down strokes on a practice erg, just so my legs wouldn't feel like they'd collapse underneath me. Once I could walk, I went to the change room.

But when I got there, I felt queasy and sat down. In my exhaustion, I zoned out and started at the bright orange lockers of the change room, focusing on the numbers on the lockers for about 20 minutes.

I finally made it out alive with blisters on the roots of my fingers and a healthy limp from a painful left hip flexor as a reward.

AN EVENT FOR EVERYONE

People of all shapes and sizes competed in Monster Erg. From young to old, amateur to Olympian, there was something for everyone.

Vivianne Irving, 72, was the oldest Monster Erg competitor, finishing her 2,000-metre race with a time of 9:35.8.

On the other end of the spectrum, 12- and 13-year-olds competed hard in the Junior C category. Andrew Wild was the top male, with a fast 2,000-metre time of 8:03.5, while Christy Scholton was the fastest female preteen at 8:11.0.

There was also an adaptive rowing event for disabled rowers. Tony Theriault, who has a spinal cord injury, completed 1,000 metres in 3:34.7, while Tami Saj, who uses a wheelchair, finished in 4:40.0.

While most rowers came from Victoria or the Lower Mainland, some travelled further. Steve Norman, an electrical engineering professor who competes for Alberta's provincial team, came all the way from Calgary to row in the master's category. Camille Brillon also came from Calgary.

On the elite side, Victoria's John Beare, who has competed for Canada at the Olympics, beat out the competition to win the lightweight men's category, completing 2,000 metres in 6:17.00.

The fastest lightweight woman was Victoria's Sheryl Preston, with a time of 7:11.06. This qualifies her for the Crash-B Sprints World Indoor Rowing Championships in Boston later this month.

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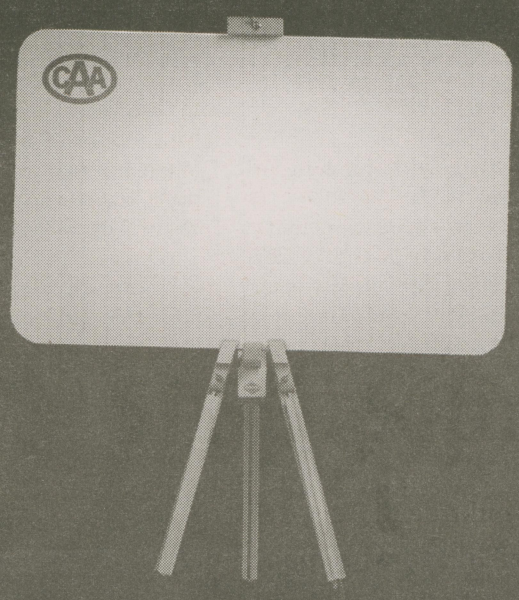

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Most valuable singer

Tony Cordle gets games off to a patriotic start

by Natalie North

It's Friday night and McKinnon Gym is rumbling with the sound of fans and supporters of the Vikes basketball teams. Among them is Tony Cordle, who is about to command the attention of all those present with his soulful rendition of O Canada.

As Cordle executes the anthem flawlessly, the rowdy buzz of spectators subsides for a few brief moments while they listen. By the end of the song, the spectators are on their feet cheering again, ready for the game to start.

Yet Cordle is more than just a pretty voice—he's a passionate fan of the Vikes who stays to watch every game, both men's and women's, well after his duties as an anthem singer have been fulfilled.

"I love watching basketball," says Cordle, who has been singing for the Vikes for about a decade.

The semi-retired Cordle continues to work part time at St. Michael's University School, where he has managed the Tuck Store, the school's snack shop, since 1985.

He also coached soccer and cricket at St. Michael's. Cordle, who was born in Barbados, played professional cricket in Wales before coming to Canada in 1984.

It was Cordle's involvement with St. Michael's that started his anthem-singing, when one of his graduates moved on to basketball operations at UVic and asked him to give it a try.

"I sing quite a bit with the kids [at school], and I enjoy it," says Cordle, although he does not teach or read music.

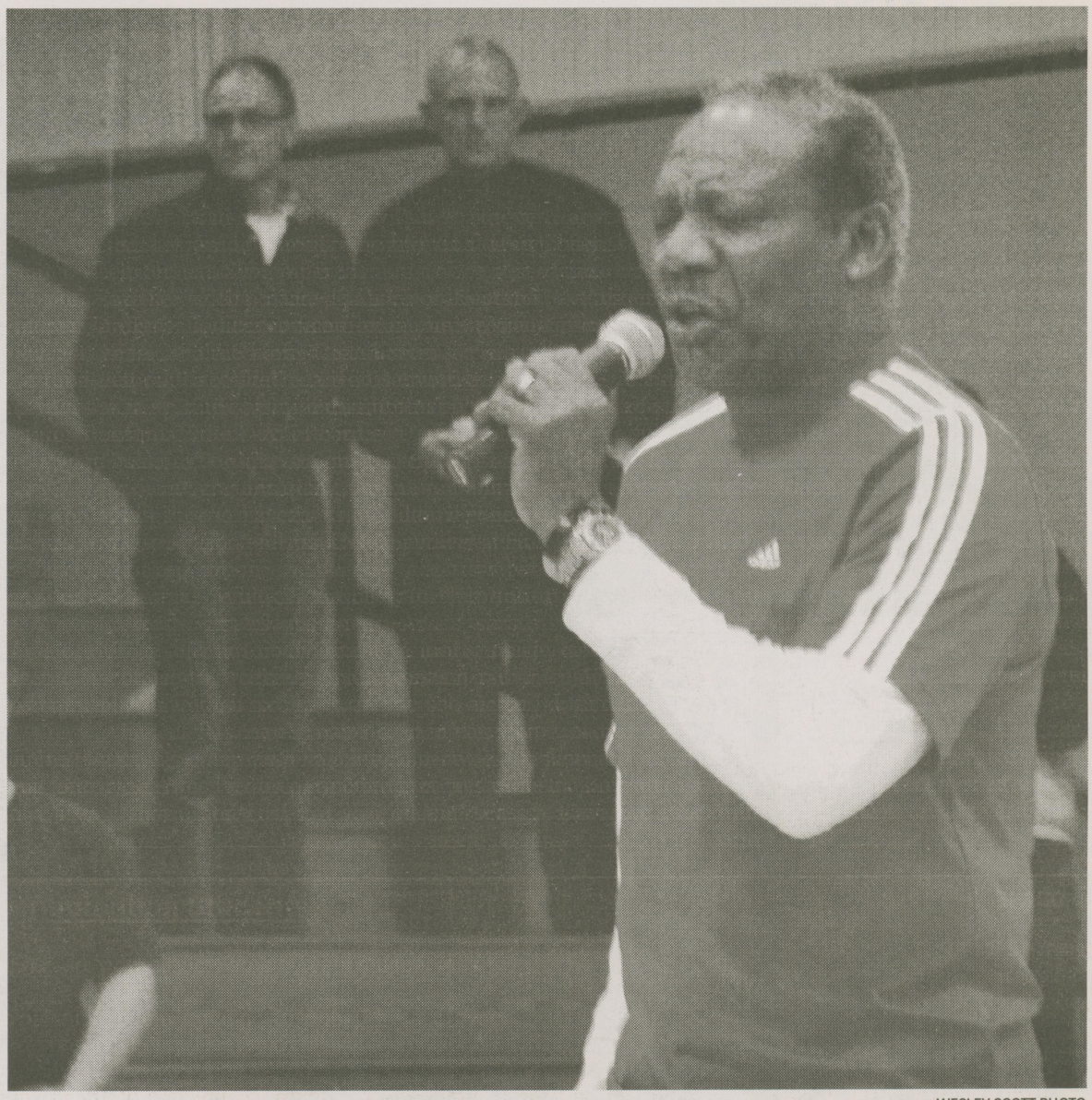
When he's not on the sidelines supporting the Vikes, he's often offering support of a different kind, lending his voice to the local charity band, Nova. The group performs exclusively to raise funds for charity events around the city.

Cordle has received a warm response from both players and fans alike and has become a welcome fixture at each game, his anthem performances reminding us to take a patriotic time out before the Vikes take to the courts.

"It's important to honour the country," says Jason Goertzen, a spectator on Jan. 26. "We don't get very many opportunities to."

Cordle and the Vikes will be in action at the McKinnon Gym this weekend, when the Vikes take on the UCFV Cascades on Jan. 9 and the Thompson Rivers Wolfpack on Jan. 11.

The women start at 6 p.m. and the men start at 8 p.m.



WESLEY SCOTT PHOTO

Tony Cordle has soulfully crooned O Canada to UVic basketball crowds for years.

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The Environmental Law Club has many upcoming events in October and throughout the year. Please visit www.elc.uvic.ca/club for details on speakers, activities and campaigns as they become available. Thank you. rachelsqf@gmail.com

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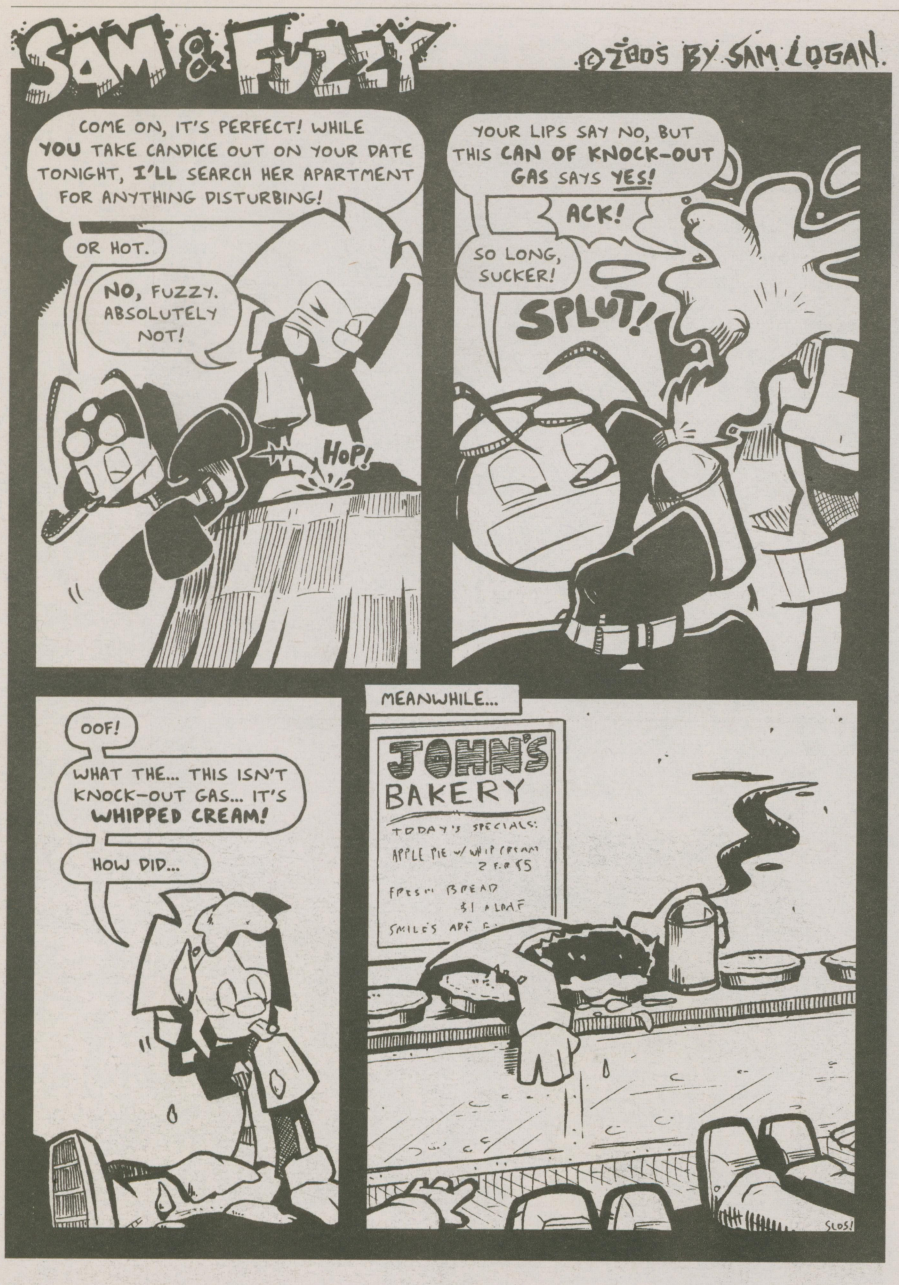
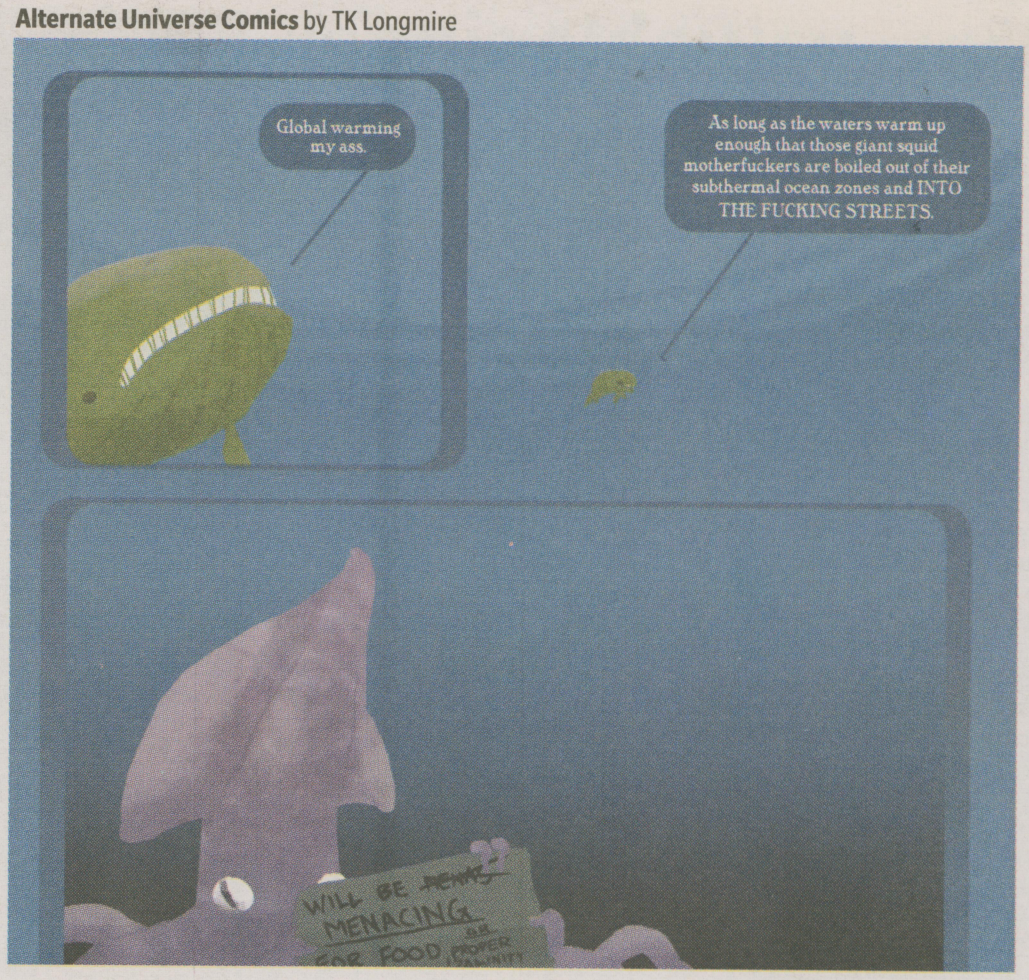


Alternate Universe Comics by TK Longmire



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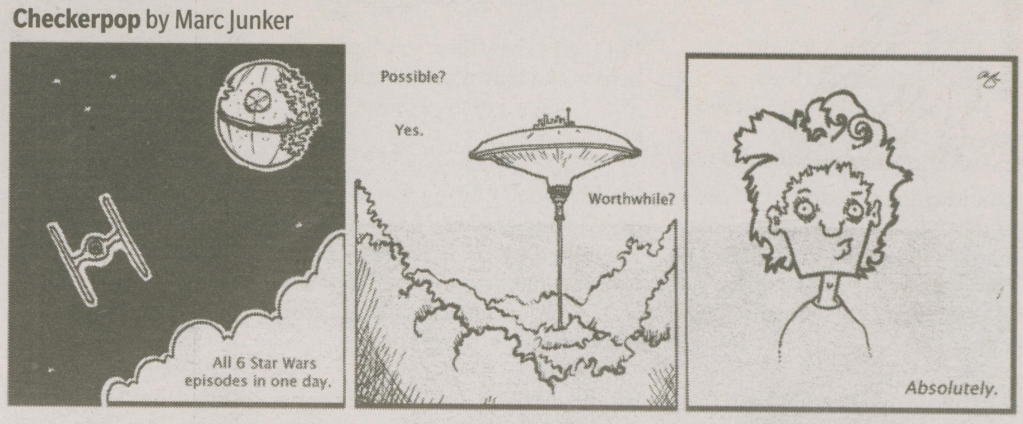

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